

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXV.]

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BIRTHS.

On February 7th, at Wenchow, to Rev. and Mrs. A. H. SHARMAN, a daughter.

On March 2nd, at Shanghai, the wife of Capt. JOHN MACARTHUR, of a son.

On March 2nd, at Shanghai, the wife of Wm. KATZ, of a daughter.

On March 7th, at Shanghai, the wife of SEYMUR HANKIN, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On March 2nd, at Shanghai, JOHN OLIVER BARNES, to ISOBEL TAGGART BAIN, second daughter of Mr. J. B. Roach of the Municipal Electricity Department, Shanghai.

On March 4th, at Shanghai, CHARLES GEORGE KING to MABEL ELIZABETH WILSON.

On March 7th, at Shanghai, JAMES RANKINE LYNES, to EDITH MARION CRANSTON.

DEATHS.

On March 6th, at Shanghai, EDMUND HEINRICH AUGUST FREIGAT, I.M. Customs, aged 38 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of February 12th arrived, per the ss. *Zieten*, on Thursday, the 14th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

A Japanese Consulate was opened at Harbin on the 4th inst.

The troops in the South China command began to wear summer clothing (khaki) on March 14th.

Hundreds of houses at Chemulpo were gutted by fire on the 5th inst.

The Hankow Municipal Council has an overdraft of nearly thirty-two thousand taels, and further debentures will probably be issued shortly.

Viceroy Shun has not yet gone to Szechwan as commanded. He has pleaded continued ill-health, and a temporary substitute has been appointed.

On Mar. 13th Mr. G. P. Lamert offered for sale by public auction the steam launch *Aperode* at Queen's Statue wharf. There was a good attendance and bidding was brisk, the launch being eventually knocked down to the Ip O firm for \$1,950.

Viceroy Chou Fu has reported to Peking that he has arrested four anti monarchists in the offices of the "Twentieth Century Journal," a paper published in Canton, and that the prisoners are awaiting trial in the prison of the Panya Magistrate's yamen.

A Vladivostok telegram on February 25 said that Yi Yong-ik died there. The political refugee lately visited Japan and Europe and stayed in Shanghai for some time. A few years ago he was a very prominent figure in Seoul and his career was rather romantic.

The *Osaka Shunpo* is organising a 1,000 mile bicycle race. The event is to take place some time next month, the route being from Osaka to Tokyo by way of Kyoto, Tsu in Ise and other places in Gifu and Prefectures on the Tokaido. Several entries have been received.

An expedition has been planned against the Hungtutze in the Amur region. Governor-General Chao of Mukden is contributing a force of some 1,600 men, and these combined with the troops already collected at Mengkiatun, will make a total of 2,500 with artillery.

A trader of Wing Lok Street, by name Lo Yin, was searched coming from the Canton steamer on March 14th for opium. Instead a number of letters addressed to shops in Hongkong but unstamped were found upon him. He was arrested and convicted by Mr. Hazland of bringing letters into the colony without the permission of the Postmaster General and fined \$100.

The Shanghai manager of the Eastern Trading Company has received a telegram to the effect that the business has been taken over by a syndicate and registered as a limited company for carrying on a general merchants and commission business in China and Korea. Mr. Owen S. Little has been appointed managing director in China, and Mr. W. R. Little will hold the same position in London.

By order of the mortgagee Mr. G. P. Lamert on Mar. 14th offered for sale by public auction Shaukiwan Inland Lot No. 10 together with all erections and premises (if any) thereon. The area of the lot is 15,280 square feet, the term of lease 75 years and the Crown rent \$78. The property was sold to Mr. Sun Cheong for \$13,200. Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master were the solicitors for the mortgagee.

The Japanese Minister of Finance has received a congratulatory telegram from the Rothschilds in Paris informing him that the Consolidation Loan was a great success in both Paris and London, despite the adverse conditions of the money market. The telegram eulogised Mr. Takahashi's ability as a financial agent, and congratulated Minister Sakatani on having such a representative and on the success of the loan.

While all praise is given to the Shanghai A. D. C. for their presentation of "You never can tell" on the 7th inst., the critics labour the author, Mr. George Bernard Shaw, for being less moral than witty. The local critics of G. B. S. might ponder the title of the piece.

The net profit of the Bank of Formosa for the second half of last year amounted to Y247,503, which brought up the total profit for the year to Y397,101, including a surplus brought forward. After providing for reserves, &c., a dividend has been paid at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

News reached Hongkong on Mar. 12th that as an outcome of the famine in the Tunkwan District of the Kwangtung Province the starving populace became desperate and commenced to pillage shops. The gates of the city of Tunkwan were closed and troops ordered to suppress the riots. The soldiers fired upon the mob, killing and wounding a number. Two regiments of soldiers despatched from Canton at the request of the officials restored peace.

A Peking dispatch states that H.E. Chan Yin-tang, Imperial Vice-Resident at Lhasa, the Capital of Tibet, has reported to the Throne that he has found substantiated the charges recently made against Yu Tai, former Imperial Resident at Lhasa, accusing him of having pocketed the pay of the Chinese troops stationed in Tibet during his stay in Lhasa. In consequence of this Yu Tai is to be arrested and compelled to refund the money dishonestly retained by him and also to pay a heavy fine for his actions.

Feng Huai-tsing, one of the two men accused by the man Collins as his accomplices and fellow-anarchists, has been released by Viceroy Yuan Shikai, as it has been proved that Feng was a victim of Collins's revenge. It appears that Feng who prior to 1904 was compradore of the Russo-Chinese Bank at Port Arthur and caused the arrest and punishment of Collins at one time in that port, in consequence of which the latter, when arrested for carrying bombs, revenged himself on Feng by "confessing" Feng as his accomplice. Fortunately for Feng the charge has fallen through and he was released.

Japan papers state that the Seoul authorities, after a consultation with the Japanese police staff at Kongju, have instructed the local officials to prohibit the exposure of dead bodies on willow embankments. It appears that about 450 years after the foundation of the Korean Kingdom, willow trees were planted in a village of Kongju for the prevention of floods and that embankments with willow trees came to be used for the disposal of unclaimed bodies of fallen travellers, etc. Five hundred and two years after the foundation of the Kingdom, hanging was substituted for beheading, to be carried out in the prison compound. But owing to the lack of proper arrangements, the willow embankment has been used for executions up to the present. Five hundred and fourteen years after the foundation of the Kingdom, or in the 10th year of Kogangmu (1904) the first hanging scaffolds were established in the prison compounds. But poor natives unable to bury the dead bodies are still disposing of them on the willow embankment. Moreover, the dead bodies of children were wont to be fastened to willow trees by the local people, to be buried after becoming desiccated. Such customs are naturally detrimental to the public health.

CANTON PRESS AND PUBLIC SPEECH.

(Daily Press, March 9th.)

In Canton, the one city besides Shanghai where the Press has arisen and flourished as a mighty public force, the newspapers appear to have been making haste too quickly. There is a danger that the free and independent newspaper there, like some of its foreign prototypes in other countries, may become, instead of a public safeguard, a public nuisance. It has for some time been an occasion for fear and trembling for foreign editors desirous of quoting from their Cantonese contemporaries, so reckless do the native scribes seem to have grown. Quite recently Viceroy CHOU FU has been putting on a temporarily effective brake, but there will have to be something more than official checks if the general body of native journals are to deserve well of their constituents. It is inevitable that in such a land of "squeeze" corruption should reach the members of the Fourth Estate as well as others, and there appears to be sufficient ground for saying that some of the Canton productions might fairly be entitled the "Daily Blackmail." For a price, it is stated, news, or matter purporting to be news, may be either published or suppressed, and we remember during the American boycott a well-informed Chinaman remarking that for a certain sum, the amount was by no means extravagant—he would guarantee to enlist the Press of Canton on the side of the American merchants. Be that as it may,—and we do not deny the possibility of exaggeration—the Cantonese papers, or some of them, appear really to have gone to undue lengths in commenting on railway affairs. There undoubtedly was a good deal in connection with the promotion of the Canton-Hankow line for which honest and fearless publicity was the best remedy. Outspokenness was desirable, but in their perhaps justifiable indignation, some of our native contemporaries have weakened the case of the people by saying too much, by publishing statements of a nature to discount the genuine and necessary allegations. The result temporarily is a strong official policy of repression, and the alienation of some measure of public sympathy and support. On the other hand, His Excellency the VICEROY in his annoyance at certain newspaper reports, has taken steps not easy to justify, and in one particular may be said, as a transpacific adage has it, to have "bitten off more than he can chew." At one meeting of railway agitators some very strong language was used, and one enterprising editor, who managed to secure a full report, was arrested. It was not alleged that his report was unfair or inaccurate, and he offered the characteristic and shrewd excuse that he had done no more than his duty in recording the proceedings, maintaining that it was only right that officials and others should know what was going on. The upshot was, apart from the release of the editor and the arrest of the orator, that Viceroy CHOU FU decreed that in future no public meeting of more than fifteen persons may be held without an official permit. This is a trouble-saving, machiavelian device, quite natural and quite excusable from the viceregal point of view, providing he be strong enough to enforce it. The history of the world, however, shows that nowhere and nowhen has such a measure ever been permanently successful. More often it enhances the trouble it seeks to avert. The early Christians in their Catacombs, the Russian malcontents in their cellars, the *Culturkampf* agitators of

Germany, these and many others have provided proof of this. The English "gagging acts" of the Georgian period were another notorious failure of this kind, and it is now a political truism with the more intelligent administrations that the safest procedure as a rule is to "let them talk." Political agitations, if not officially obstructed, have been known to end in talk, whereas interference often fans the flame to greater fury. We notice that a missionary is anxious as to whether the Viceroy's new law will apply to religious meetings. It might not always be pleasant for the missionaries, but if it did, and were persisted in, there could hardly be anything more likely to cause a revival. If stolen fruit be sweet, forbidden fruit is always highly attractive. Meanwhile, we have not yet seen that the Viceroy's order is confirmed from Peking; and we do not think it matters much either way. We predict for him in any case a repetition of the failure of SYDNEY SMITH's "Mrs. Partington."

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

(Daily Press, 11th March.)

The six hundred odd lords of various ranks who constitute the Peers of Parliament have not over much to thank their pretended friends on both sides of the House for. A hundred years ago the Upper House consisted of a compact and influential body of members, separately and collectively representing the highest interests in the State, nearly all possessed of the quiet and unobtrusive influence which only ancient residence and ancient prestige can confer, and understanding well not only the traditions of government, but the more difficult task of holding their own amongst their neighbours and dependents, without exciting jealousy or raising any opposition of class to class. The dilution of the ranks of those honoured with titles of aristocracy had, it is true, commenced some little time prior to the beginning of the century by the wholesale creation of a number of Irish Peers, whose only recommendation had been, that as members of the House of Commons of Ireland they had through thick and thin supported the Ministry of the day in effecting the union of the two Parliaments. But the House of Lords as such was yet free from such intermingling of the *nouveau riche* as would sensibly lower the general prestige of the House as a legislative assembly. Indeed the additions to its ranks were scarcely more than sufficient to provide for the wear and tear inherent in all aristocracies, as well as to add the necessary leaven of new ability to the political discussions of the assembly. After the beginning of the last century it unfortunately became the practice at the end of each session to reward the stauncher supporters of the ministry of the day by raising them to the peerage, independent of other considerations. Formerly, except in special cases where a statesman had been long in office and had so acquired a corresponding social status, men selected for the honour were either of noble families or had belonged to the great untitled aristocracy, but this soon came to be a needless qualification, and the new nobility never thoroughly became assimilated with the old. Still, of course, as is customary in such cases, they soon became even greater sticklers for the privileges of their class than the oldest of the old nobility itself. The consequence is seen in the present position of the Lords as compared with the Commons. It is undeniable that a hundred years ago

there was not the same fierce opposition of classes as is to be noted, to-day. Of course in a large measure this is to be attributed to the capture of the constituencies by the working classes; but it cannot be doubted that the intensity of the division between the classes has been very much aggravated by the altered condition of the House of Lords itself, and the large infusion of men sprung from what the working man cannot but look upon as his own class. Since the beginning of the last century some five hundred new peers have been added to the House of Lords, and though a large proportion of these have been re-creations of titles which have merely died out in the eldest line, possibly nearly half have been new men ennobled for mere momentary services. Against such a class the democracy in all ages have ever borne a grudge, and it is against the actions of these new peers who have become, as they think, more obstructive than the old Lords of the Realm, that the present outcry is in great measure directed. The radical members of the present Government, themselves incapable of construction, do not hesitate to turn the attention of the democracy to these presumed enemies. "See," they cry, "these men never come down to the House when any useful measure is to be discussed, but if you have expressed your opinion on any subject, however necessary for your welfare, they pour in deliberately and defeat it." Such men as Mr. LLOYD GEORGE, who but the other day had won the execration of all classes by their unblushing support of the open enemies of their country, do not in their present temporary spell of prosperity hesitate to announce their intention, even by violence if required, to upset the institutions of their country which have stood the test of centuries. Foremost amongst their projects is, of course, the abolition of the House of Lords, forgetful of the fact that were it not for the presence of a moderating element in the Constitution they themselves would at the moment be in hard case, and may be equally so to-morrow. Now, as we have said, the House is scarcely in a satisfactory state at the moment; but it is not the fault of the House itself, nor of its individual members, as much as of the Ministers chosen from both political parties. According to the system of unmitigated party government, for the last century and a half the Ministers have owed their office to, the changing temperament of the House of Commons, and have used their power equally effectually to lower in the eyes of the nation the upper Chamber. As a consequence the House of Lords has ceased to be representative, either of itself or of any interest of first-class importance in the state, and how to restore its dignity and utility is now, it must be confessed, one of the chief problems of the day. To destroy it altogether would be to deprive the State of the governor necessary not only for the safe working of a State, but of every piece of machinery. How, for example, would the metropolis get over the mischief that might be evolved in a single night were the electric supply works to be deprived of their effective centrifugal governors? We see the same necessity for checking irregularities in working in every process of manufacture. The common sense of mankind has from time to time in the vastly more important machine of government applied a similar system of check and counter-check, but unfortunately through the mistakes of three generations of statesmen the controlling element itself has been put out of gear. This we may allow without committing ourselves to one party or the other. But

how amend matters? Would-be statesmen like Mr. LLOYD GEORGE cry,—"Stick a knife in it and let the machine burst itself up. Wiser men say amend the governor; in this doubtless most are agreed, but how is it to be done? That is a point on which there are as many opinions as there are speakers. Perhaps the larger number would make it representative; but how make it representative, and representative of what? Here again the divergence far exceeds the congruity. The time is eminently one demanding a statesman, but Great Britain has of late years been woefully lacking in statesmen; and certainly at the moment no heaven-sent ruler of men seems looming on the political horizon.

THE CHINA JELLY.

(Daily Press, 12th March.)

A Shanghai correspondent of the *Times* has hit upon a happy phrase. "To deal with the Chinese Government," he says, "has hitherto been like trying to fasten a jelly on to a wall with tacks." The older members of the China Association, and many diplomats past and present, will appreciate that. It conveys the point of the story of Sisyphus much more effectively than that old history of hopelessness. It is also a pleasing variation of the picture of the old lady who tried to sweep back the Atlantic with a broom, although that reminds us more of the Hongkong Sanitary Board fighting imported disease than of negotiators with Peking. The jelly analogy is distinctly good, and fits Peking without a crease. Hitherto the mention of jelly has been associated with weakness; we say of an invertebrate man or policy that he or it is as weak and unstable as a jelly. The inherent strength of Mandarinism becomes apparent, however, when efforts are made to nail it up. The nails pierce it easily enough, it is not hard to move, but when we pause to observe the effect, we find the jelly apparently intact, and by no means in the position we expected to find it. The ideal policy of LAOTSE was illustrated by the qualities of water; the sage would probably have thanked the Shanghai writer for this newer simile. One of Peking's gelatinous performances has lately been to plead inability to coerce the provinces, or rather, to repudiate responsibility when the provincial officials, acting on the nod, have done things for which Peking is called to account. The *Times* correspondent says:—

"How far the Central Government is sincere in its plea of insufficient authority over the provinces is a question difficult for any foreigner to answer. Simultaneously with incomprehensible exhibitions of weakness, when the provincial gentry clamour for the boycotting of foreign railway enterprise, we find the Throne sternly forbidding any change in the national costume or removal of the queue, and ordering the provincial authorities to deal severely with any attempt on the part of Young China to depart from the sacred traditions of the dynasty in the matter of its clothes. It would not be unreasonable to expect that a Government which can impose its uncompromising will on the student class in such a matter as their hairdressing, should be able to dictate its policy for the construction and administration of Imperial railways, and the plain man is therefore apt to conclude that, while the alleged provincial opposition may have some real existence, it could never become a serious factor in the situation, unless encouraged by the Government itself."

Discussing this, our London contemporary wonders what causes the comparatively peaceful and submissive acquiescence of four hundred million intelligent people in "the most unwieldy and corrupt system of

administration known to mankind." It is not done by force, our contemporary sapiently observes, referring to the notorious insignificance of the "few small bodies of foreign-trained troops." These, in any case, are a modern innovation; the problem that puzzles the *Times* existed before them. Decidedly it is not physical force that accounts for the Chinese acquiescence. "It is not any positive religion," the *Times* goes on, meaning, and expressing its meaning later, the absence of dogmatic beliefs. It must be, our contemporary decides, "immemorial custom" and a "traditional code of ethics," which, we must admit, is by way of explanation somewhat thin and inconclusive. To a certain extent it is habit, of course, and in a way it is also the result of religious training. Governments have always been better served by priests than by soldiers, whenever for any length of time a minority has succeeded in ruling the majority. Our theory would be that the Chinese submissiveness is a product of pessimism, a shrewdly acquired indifference. The average Chinaman knows, or has been taught, the inevitability of evil, and his prevailing thought when in trouble is the uselessness of struggling to change one evil for another. In Hongkong, advised to complain to the authorities about some petty official who has been "squeezing" him, he will reply: "To what good purpose? This bad man, if dismissed, will be succeeded by another, who may be worse." This is not merely an isolated, individual perception, but is a general habit of thought, and it seems to account for the phenomenon that has puzzled the *Times*. It is fairly in accordance with the teachings of the Taoists, whose philosophy is widespread, even if the creed be not, and there are numerous competent observers who have remarked on this individualistic indifference and absence of patriotism. Schools and newspapers and railways will make a difference, but despite the optimists, these things have not yet had time to do more than touch the fringe. So the individual Chinaman plays jelly to the Manchu tack just as the Mandarin jelly slips around and away from the foreign tack. Anti-foreign prejudice exists, and is not inconsistent with the indifference we have postulated, for it requires no effort. The jelly dislikes being handled. Beyond slithering always and stinging sometimes, the jelly need not be expected to do anything. It is the pattern passive resister. It floats with the tide, merely rising or falling in the current as self-interest dictates. The jelly as a reformer is not to be depended upon. Yellow peril prophets are afraid of the aculeph developing into an octopus, but either for good or ill, evolution is slow here. The case of Japan is one of those disconcerting exceptions that may be over-worked as an argument. The immediate point is that China is in the medusa stage, and reformers must either abandon the idea of fixing the jelly to the wall, or use some means other than the tack-hammer.

SHANGHAI MIXED COURT.

(Daily Press, 13th March.)

The anomalous character of what Shanghai calls its "Mixed Court" continues to occasion concern and trouble politics. Great Britain's representative is still negotiating with the Chinese with regard to the damage done by the Shanghai riots of December 1905. Viceroy TUN FANG holds that if Sir J. JORDAN insists on the payment of a monetary indemnity, then proper investigations should also be made into the number of Chinese subjects who

suffered, so that equal treatment may be accorded to the relatives of the unfortunate sufferers. The Viceroy also takes a different view about the punishment of the former Customs Taotai (YUAN CHU-HSUN, now Governor designate of Peking) of Shanghai, and other Chinese officials, because they were "entirely powerless to deal with the rioters in the foreign settlement." This is a repetition of the artful reminder that if the foreigners will not allow native troops to over-run Shanghai, they cannot expect the Chinese authorities to assume responsibility for what Chinese desperadoes may do there. It is artful because plausible, but those who remember the circumstances will not need to be told that it is also impudent. There were the clearest indications of official sympathy and connivance; and there have been innumerable evidences that the Chinese regard the Mixed Court and its jurisdiction from a vastly different point of view to that occupied by foreigners. Unfortunately, this sort of thing is made easy by the unique nature of the Settlement and the Court. There is nothing but prejudice or sentiment to sway most people's opinion in the matter. The Treaties hardly cover all the difficulties that arise, and it would puzzle even SOLOMON with all his wisdom to decide on principles of equity, so cunningly presented are the pleas on both hands. Few people, however, fail to recognise the necessities of the situation; and it seems a pity that extraneous or almost irrelevant considerations should arise to retard a settlement of all the difficulties. Between the Shanghai Municipal Council, the Consular Body and the Diplomatic Body, there seem to be misunderstandings that interfere with such a settlement. New rules for the regulation of the Mixed Court are now about to be promulgated, after several years of more or less circular discussion. The Municipal Council, on behalf of the population chiefly affected, naturally takes a keen interest in these forthcoming rules, but whether it has been tactless in asserting its interest, or whether the Diplomatic Body is composed of men who regard official prerogatives and prestige as of more importance than the public weal, the fact remains that the Municipal Council's views and opinions have not received from the diplomats the attention and consideration they would seem to deserve. In the course of a correspondence that passed between the Municipal Council and the Consular Body of Shanghai the latter stated in a letter dated June 1, 1905 (published in the Municipal Report for that year), that "eleven new rules based upon the suggestion made by the Municipal Council some time ago and approved by the Consular Body have been placed before the Chinese Government by the Diplomatic Body." The Senior Consul added that Ministers were of opinion that all efforts should be directed first to obtain sanction for these rules and to have them put into force before any new proposals were made. Accordingly he asked the Municipal Council "to drop the question of further new rules for the present." In acquiescing in this request the Council expressed itself "content to await the issue of the present negotiations in the confident anticipation that, should the proposed eleven rules be sanctioned and put into force without materially improving the status and morale of the Court, the Council will have the support of the Consular and Diplomatic Bodies in a further application for revision." At the same time the Council pointed out that the phrase "rules based upon the suggestion made by the

Municipal Council" was to some extent misleading, "in that the rules in question do not purport to strike at the root of the abuses which it has been the Council's aim in the past to redress, that the Council has had no part in their framing, and that their text has not been submitted for their comment." In plainer terms, the Municipal Council fears that the new rules will be inadequate, and naturally regrets that its consideration thereof and comments thereon were not availed of. The only reason for their being ignored is "diplomatic," which may mean anything. It can only mean that the Chinese dislike the Council, or that the diplomats are jealous of its growing importance. The first is probable; the second not impossible. From what is so far known of the new rules, secured with so much pains by the diplomats, the opinion is current that Shanghai will be practically in no better position than before, where essential points are at issue. So much for diplomacy and high politics. The same disputes are bound to arise again; the Chinese obstructionists will enlarge on the letter of the rules; the Municipal Council for its constituents, will fight for the principle and for the usage that has been putting that principle into practice. If the responsibility really rests with the Diplomats, it should not be impossible to have pressure put upon them from Home, in the future inevitable negotiations, to pay more attention to local wishes and local arguments.

PILLS AND POLITICS.

(Daily Press, March 14th.)

The receipt of a deeply interesting pamphlet in which a large number of residents in the Far East testify to the superlative merits of a patent medicine "gives furiously to think." Assuming that they are all actually existent and traceable persons, and that they have not been paid to proclaim the miraculous efficacy of the nostrum, what is it that makes them so willing to remember and recount their past miseries, and to urge on others the advisability of giving their mixture a trial? The patentees will suggest that it is gratitude, but as these people all paid, presumably, for their cures, and as some knowledge of human nature teaches that gratitude is not a universal attribute, some more satisfactory answer has to be sought. In some cases it may be egotism pure and simple; and in others, sheer indifference to responsibility and disinclination to refuse the vendor's request; but about many of these testimonials there is an earnestness strongly suggestive of propagandist fervour. May it not be that there is some affinity between the worthy rejoicer over a drug that "did him good" and the expounder of a creed that seems all sufficient to the one expounding? Are the volunteer advocates of pet policies on a par with the people who would, quite disinterestedly, persuade us to take pills? The suspicion grows, and becomes something more than a mere suspicion, that these worthy folk have much in common. Abolish ceilings and kissing, cries one: there be plaguey rats in the first and germs in the second. You are ruined without Fiscal Protection, says another; and three hundred odd bishops draft a book of instructions outlining a cult that alone can save all sorts and conditions of souls. They are alike in their catholicity, these well-meaning friends of ours, whether pushing pills or propaganda. The patent chemical compound will cure anything; a host of witnesses assure us that it has cured everything, from indigestion to housemaid's-knee

and just as it is no respecter of diseases, so the ethical, religious, political panacea claims to fit all persons and all circumstances. There are so many of these universal remedies, too, and so many enthusiastic prescribers thereof, that the normal, healthy person hardly knows where to seek peace that he may find it. "You are not looking at all well," comes the greeting, to one absolutely unconscious of anything wrong. "What you want is a pick-me-up. Take a bromide." Very often the suggestion does its work; the faith-cure does its part; and a well person feeling as he really is and was, joins the ranks of the fussy, meddling, impertinent, well-meaning, but insufferable busybodies who go about offering unnecessary advice and unneeded reforms. Most sane minds are aware, if ever they indulge in the luxury of reflection, that there cannot possibly in the nature of things be any medicine that will cure all diseases or suit all patients. Sugared water with a Latin label will, and does, cure most of the diseases of the imagination, and probably this accounts for many of the illustrated testimonials that are thrust into our letter boxes from time to time. The point to note is that the drug that cures a certain disease for one patient may be useless, and even dangerous, to another patient with the same disease. This is a point about which we suppose even doctors never disagree. It is so with creeds and politics. This is no mere analogy, no parallel of superficial resemblances. It seems to us that it is a point which, while not new or original, is habitually ignored by missionaries, politicians, and social reformers. Pages of concrete examples could be cited, but perhaps this is far enough to let a quack circular take us.

THE NATURE OF CHINESE "HISTORY."

(Daily Press, 15th March.)

We have received from the S. P. C. K. a book entitled "Early Chinese History: Are the Chinese Classics forged?" by HERBERT J. ALLEN, sometime H.B.M. Consul at Newchwang. The S. P. C. K. have before this shown themselves superior to that vulgar credulity which would retard the progress of Christian knowledge in the future, through the ill-founded fear of, through a frank acknowledgement of the errors of the past, destroying the foundations of religious belief. We have therefore no reason to express our surprise at the Society having given its exequatur to this somewhat crude production of Mr. HERBERT ALLEN's. Hitherto credulity from various causes, principally ignorance and remoteness from the schools of modern thought, have reigned supreme in China, so that Sinology has come to be a byword in the historical and philological world. If Mr. ALLEN had shown himself an adept in historical criticism, or had made a deep study of the canons of philological research, we could have welcomed his little work as a valuable assistance to our knowledge of the past of extreme Oriental history. Mr. ALLEN is unfortunately a tyro in both these sciences, and so his attempt to introduce some measure of commonsense into that very bizarre subject, Chinese scholarship, will, in the first instance at least, have rather the contrary tendency. In the long run it is doubtless a gain to the cause of knowledge in general that the very suspicious fabric on which has been erected the structure misnamed Chinese History, should be exposed, but in seeking to demolish one unsubstantial structure Mr. ALLEN has only succeeded in erecting another equally flimsy and un-

substantial. While it may be affirmed without fear of contradiction that the fabric which has up to the present passed current as "History" in China is a thing of invention and barefaced forgery, it does not necessarily follow that all the evidences on which it is pretended to be founded are equally untrustworthy.

We have been careful in not using in connection with these evidences the term *documents*, because we may safely assume that there are not, and never have been any documents in the case. The invention of writing in China is a thing of comparatively late growth, and was even in the days of CONFUCIUS in so embryonic a state that though it might be made to represent facts to a certain extent, it could not express the corresponding words, nor act as a medium for thought. It was not indeed till some three or four generations after the death of the Master that his historical "lectures" contained in the *Tao Chwen* were reduced to writing; and the record of the "conversations" of the sage contained in the *Lünyü*, bear on their very face the evidence of still later, probably Han, reduction to writing. Writing during the time of T'SIN SHI HWANGTI, was, as we learn from the nearly contemporary record in the *Shi Ki*, in but an inchoate condition; and SSAMA T'SIEN records how the minister LISSA was the first to introduce a method of writing which could be intelligible in the various languages and dialects then current.

We must then dismiss as little more than a fable the pretended burning of the ancient "literature" put forward by the literates of another age as a screen to their own barefaced, and generally ignorant forgeries. That in a moment of anger at the tirades of the scholar SHUN YUYUEH, who essayed to teach him how to rule the State his prowess had won, SHI HWANGTI did order his books to be burnt is likely enough, but SSAMA T'SIEN does not add that the hasty order was ever carried out. The absence of the books was, in fact, mainly brought about by their non-existence, added to the general confusion of the times. It is perhaps a piece of good fortune, in some respects at least, that the recension of the ancient literary remains should have fallen to the lot of the ignorant scholars of the Han, inasmuch as the style of the few genuine remains still existing is in marked contrast to the productions of the forgers. It is, however, unfortunately a fact that owing to the primitive and imperfect system under which the ordinary student, more especially should he belong to one of the "services," learns Chinese, that the personal study of style is not encouraged, and the text is generally droned out in a vernacular paraphrase wherein all consciousness of the rhythm of the original is completely obscured.

Mr. ALLEN has thus been led to confuse the few genuine remains with the vast and preponderating mass of verbiage in which they are concealed. Another disability arises from the very nature of the medium. The authentic works of antiquity have all been handed down orally, many of the ballads of the *Shi King* for close on a thousand years, before at last they were committed to writing. During this period the language underwent a profound change; from being like its neighbours in the West an inflected speech, it suffered the usual decay to which language is subjected when learned by an alien race; and became reduced to what may be best described for the understanding of our readers, as a "pidgin," wherein first all inflections were sloughed off, and secondly the remains of the speech which survived

became reduced to one of monotonous monosyllables. Regarding the antiquity of these fragments it may be said that the oldest do not date back more than a thousand years B.C., and that the earliest figure that emerges from the mass of tradition is the forerunner of the petty kingdom of the Cheos, whom about 1,200 B.C. we find appearing in the then comparatively fertile land between Sha Chow and Lake Lop. That there exist a few fragments of still earlier myth is undeniable, but the myth is not of China; it is Asiatic in the widest sense; and belongs to the same body of ancient myth as underlies the stories of Aryan India, of the ancient land of Iran, of far off Hellas itself.

But the rejection of these fragments as veritable history by no means implies that we are to condemn them as forgeries, or reject them as useless towards our object of restoring history. In this respect myth has frequently a part to play more important than pretended history itself, as not being subject to falsification to the same extent; and in this case we find that the myths of the "Shi King," and in a lesser degree even those of the more corrupt "Shu King," prove to fit in wonderfully with the still more badly manipulated tales of the Indian Mahabharata and Ramayana especially the former. As there is no possibility of the one having been founded on the other, and each describes the position of affairs in the lands north of the Himalayas at the same epoch, we are justified in drawing conclusions where both are in harmony, and we are thus enabled to carry back the main facts of the history of the Aryan races in both the north of India and in the plains of Eastern Turkestan for some hundreds of years. More, the juxtaposition of the two throws a flood of light on the connection of both with the early Iranians, and so exemplifies some of the more debated points in the early history of Zoroastrianism.

So much for Mr. ALLEN's suggestion as to the probable forgery of the mass of the extant Chinese Classics. In endeavouring to rehabilitate the undoubtedly genuine, so far as they go, remains of antiquity to be found here and there amidst the mass of rubbish denominated the "Chinese Classics" we must not be supposed to have a word to say in favour of that extraordinary association of misunderstood myth and downright untruth and forgery which has up to this been miscalled Chinese "History." For it Mr. ALLEN has hardly spoken in sufficiently strong terms of reprobation. Mr. ALLEN gives a series of translations from SHEMA TSIEN's work, the "Sbi Ki" or "Historical Record" which show to what a bathos of absurdity a man of more than average ability can permit himself to descend when he leaves the straight path of historical truth. The very absurdity of SHEMA's efforts, when he attempts for himself to make history, may be looked upon as one of the strongest proofs of his utter incapacity to have forged any of the existing classics. Unfortunately Mr. ALLEN has made an attempt in his translation to render into English the characters used by the author to represent proper names; the effect is bizarre—almost as much so as SHEMA's own attempts to invent history. Here are a few lines copied faithfully:

"Yellow Emperor lived on the hill of Hsien-yuan, and married a daughter of Western Range, namely, Lei-tsu, and she was Yellow Emperor's principal wife. She bore two sons, both of whose descendants possessed the empire. One of them was called Hsuan-hsiao; this was Ch'ing-yang (Azure Male) who came down to dwell on the river Chiang. The other called Ch'ang-yi (Splendid Idea) came down to dwell on the Jo water. Ch'ang-yi married

a woman from the hills of Shu (i.e. Szechwan province), who was called Ch'ang-pu (Splendid Servant). She bore a son Kao-yan (High Male) who had the virtue of a holy man. Yellow Emperor died and was buried at Ch'iaoshan (Bridge mountain), and his grandson, Ch'ang-yi's son, High Male, that is Emperor Chuan-hsu, came to the throne."

Now we may much simplify this, while at the same time translating more faithfully, if we treat the Chinese characters simply as the sounds, for which alone they were intended, without striving to introduce into them an element of hidden meaning never intended. Such is, as anyone can see by ten minutes' investigation of the Chinese shop signs in the Queen's Road, the practice of the Chinese with regard to foreign proper names. With this explanation we may proceed with our story:

"Hwangti lived at the Hienyuen hills, and married a woman of Siling called Leitsu, as his favourite wife. She bore him two sons, the descendants of both of whom subsequently occupied the throne: one of these was called Ch'angyi, and lived by the Yok (Weak, or rather Dead) Water. Changyi took to wife a woman from the Shuk Mountains called Changpuk, who gave birth to a son known as Kaoyang. Kaoyang had the ability of a sage. Hwangti died and was buried at K'iaoshan, and Kaoyang, who was the son of his grandson Ch'angyi, succeeded; he was the Emperor Chwenhu."

It requires but little acquaintance with the simplest canons of historical criticism to see at once that this is "faked," and cannot be accepted as history in any sense. But the Chinese chroniclers, though they were ready to put forward as genuine the most unblushing forgeries, had not the gift of imagination, but were dependent on older stories. The source of inspiration here is the Mahabharata, the great Indian epic which tells of the internecine wars of the Kauravas and Pandavas. The outlines of the story were in the hands of every Indian Buddhist priest, and Indian Buddhist priests were as plentiful in China about the beginning of the Christian era as blown leaves in autumn. With this hint we can read the whole tale. Krishna (the Dark) i.e. Hwangti, with same meaning, is king of the Pandavas and lives in the hills of Gadharu: he has many wives but the best beloved is Radha, (Leitsu), who bore him two sons. Here the teller of the tale gets confused, but the story proceeds on the lines of the quarrel between the two cousins. Krishna Dwai-payana had two sons, Dhritarashtra (T'ingyang), who lived by the river Sarasvati in the heart of the kingdom; and Pandu, for whom however the Chinese substitutes Ch'angyi, i.e. Dwaraka, (Dwaraka not being a person but the name of Krishna's kingdom), who lived in the remote district by the Weak water, Lake Lob. Taking advantage, seemingly of his absence, though the story finds another incomprehensible excuse, Dhritarashtra (T'ingyang) assumes the throne, which is acquiesced in for some time; but eventually Dwaraka's grandson Karna (Kaoyang) succeeds to the throne as the Emperor Swarga (Chwanhuk).

All the other stories of the "Three Sovereigns" and "Five Emperors" on investigation equally turn out to be mere rehashes of comparatively late Indian stories, and it is not till we arrive at the Tis (devas), Yao and Shun that we come on even a genuine myth. The myths never had their origin in China, but can be traced to the Cheo immigrants who entered China some twelve or fifteen centuries before Christ. Here Mr. ALLEN is wrong in stating in his introduction that there is nothing to show how the "Chinese" people came to inhabit China. There are two errors here. The Chinese people may be

allowed to have been the original inhabitants of the land, but it is certain that some twelve hundred years B.C. an alien tribe, closely connected with the Aryan settlers about the same period in Northern India, also entered China, and brought, as in the former case, their own language and civilisation. The early history of the two countries was in fact in the main similar, and so it is that the myths of the two, when carefully studied, show so close a resemblance. As in the case of India we cannot accept the Vedas and the Mahabharata as having any claims to be called historic, so neither can we look upon the ballads of China as truthful records of the past. Both, however, can throw a very important light on the primitive conditions of Eastern Asia, and both are equally well worthy of study by the oriental scholar.

SHANGHAI AND HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 16th March.)

When DOGBERRY remarked that "comparisons are odorous"—not "odious"—it is not absolutely clear whether he meant that they were objectionable or the reverse. That section of the public which habitually misquotes its unread Bard assumes somehow that comparisons are always bad form, which is, of course, nonsense. Pharisaic comparisons are offensive, perhaps; but all can admire the philosophic CRUSOE on his island, avoiding the mistake of grumbling at his apparent misfortunes by comparing with them his actual compensations. Some such comparison is suggested by our news from Shanghai. Shanghaianders in Hongkong often institute comparisons. The Hongkong coolie class is more insolent and rude, they say, than theirs at Shanghai; we have no ticket system of paying ricksha hire; we are less well provided in the matter of social amusements; and we have no elections worth speaking of. And so forth, and so on. The first item of the comparison is enough for us to consider. It is true that European pedestrians on our sidewalks, especially ladies, find progress less comfortable than they would at Shanghai. Thanks to a paternal Government's pampering in the past, so it is said, the pigtailed Jack is as good as his master, and thinks himself better. Indeed, he has no master, as in the northern port, where the too intrusive juxtaposition of his odorous presence is resented by a cuff or a blow. On the other hand, if a Crown Colonist make the comparison, it is said that though the native lower orders of Shanghai may be more servile and outwardly respectful, the Hongkong servant class, though insolent in demeanour, is at heart better behaved and more law-abiding. As a British subject, and equal under the flag, our Chinese "man in the street" may be averse to giving any man the wall, but at the worst he does not throw stones at us, or burn our public offices, or shoot our policemen. Just at present Hongkong residents who have heard of Shanghai's immunity from some of our minor worries may find consolation in the comparison, and congratulate themselves on the absence of graver troubles. For, indeed, our neighbour's troubles are sufficiently grave. Canton may be too hospitable and friendly to our debtors occasionally, and it would be better if it sent us fewer contagious patients, but so far as the anti-foreign and criminological aspects are concerned, we have little to complain of. The native city and hinterland of Shanghai is far worse. It harbours criminals and hivers of foreigners, and pours them into the Settlement. The British Consul-General, Sir PELHAM WARREN, has just reminded the

Chinese authorities of their responsibility, and warned them that they are directly encouraging serious crime by their conduct. The complaint is not unreasonable. It has been patent enough in the past, and it seems it is still going on. It looks very much as if there is some kind of a foolish native hope of making the foreigner's position untenable. The trouble is not lessened by the facility with which the desperadoes of the environs are armed with modern weapons of precision. The Municipal Council has lately proposed to take steps to restrict the sale of these, but if, as one contemporary says, this will need "unanimity between the foreign and native authorities," we cannot expect any important result from their activity. At present Shanghai seems in one respect to resemble some of BRET HARTE'S camps; a revolver seems to be as fashionable or inevitable as a necktie. The Municipal Council cannot, it is quite clear, rely on native co-operation; it may disarm a few rowdy white men; but it will find it a hard task to prevent arms reaching the Chinese who want them. The murder of Constable MORROW comes as another timely reminder of the importance of a firmer grip on the Mixed Court. The leniency of the Native City authorities towards criminals sent from the Settlement is a striking contrast to their methods with offenders outside the Settlement. The unanimity that should surely be first striven for is among the Europeans themselves, between the City Fathers and the officials representing the Powers. We have previously noted its absence; and our telegraphic references to the outburst of the WINSTON CHURCHILL of the British Consulate there show that they are still failing to pull together as their common and dire necessities require.

POLICEMEN HONOURED.

BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR.

On the compound of the Central Police Station on the 9th March, in the presence of several companies of the force on parade, the Captain-Superintendent of Police, who was accompanied by the Deputy and Assistant Superintendents, presented three members of the force with medals provided by H.E. the Governor.

The first officer to receive his medal was Detective-Sergeant Wilden, who, it may be remembered was the officer whose smart work at Macao and in Chinese territory resulted in bringing the Junk Bay pirates to justice. Mr. BADELEY, in presenting the medal, which is of bronze with the head of H.M. the King on one side and the words "for merit" on the other, remarked that it was granted to Detective Wilden by H.E. the Governor for specially smart detective services. He trusted that this recognition of faithful service would be an incentive to other members.

The next recipient was Indian Police Sergeant 656, who, at the time of the Harbour Office stabbing affray when a Chinese attempted the life of Mr. Botelho, pursued the would-be murderer, who jumped into the harbour. The sergeant, however, did not hesitate; he promptly followed and captured the Chinese.

The third man on whom the Captain-Superintendent pinned the merit medal was Lukong Sui Hoi. This the Chinese constable received for long and faithful service, having served at the Tsimshatsui Police Station for over 30 years.

At the Public Works Department last week a lot of Crown land, registered as Kai Kung Island Lot No. 38, situate at Hang Hau, was offered for sale by public auction. The lot contains 14,000 square feet, and bears an annual Crown rental of \$64. Mr. Li Ping was declared the purchaser at \$290, being \$10 above the upset price.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 11th March.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

QUESTIONED PROCEDURE.

Messrs. H. Cruz and Co. proceeded against R. H. Mahomed on five separate writs of summons to recover \$2,500 due for goods sold and delivered.

Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) appeared for plaintiffs, and Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Bruton and Hett) for the defendant.

Mr. Hett took an initial objection to the continuance of the proceedings. He pointed out that on the endorsement of each writ the claim was the same with the exception of the amount and the date. The total amount due by defendant, if it was due, was \$2,500 and Mr. Hett referred his Lordship to section 10 of the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance of 1873, remarking that according to that section it appeared to be quite clear that the action should have been brought in original jurisdiction.

His Lordship—I thought that at the time, and suggested it on Friday.

Mr. Goldring—I have to say that my friend is drawing a skillful red herring across the trail. These are a series of separate contracts, distinct and specific.

His Lordship—Why didn't you see to them as they arose?

Mr. Goldring—As soon as the last contract failed, my client wished to sue. In this case all kinds of goods were ordered, distinctly and separately, and I think your Lordship will not be within the letter of the Ordinance if you hold that this \$2,500 forms only one cause of action. I submit that in a series of contracts like this, everyone forms a cause of action in itself. Contracts are so made every day in the commercial houses here.

His Lordship—But such points are not brought before the Court every day.

Mr. Goldring—These goods arrived in the Colony by different ships, and on different dates, therefore each forms a separate contract.

His Lordship—I cannot understand why you didn't sue on each as it became due.

Mr. Goldring—Promissory notes were given on delivery of the goods, and we did not sue until the last note fell due.

His Lordship—I am doubtful about the point at present. I never heard of a case like it before; therefore it must go into Friday's list, then I will decide.

MA AGREEMENT OF CHINESE "HUIS."

Hon. Sz suet Ho Yee-nai to recover \$70 due from the defendant as a member of a money loan association of which plaintiff was the head.

Mr. C. D. Thomson appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. R. A. Harding for the defendant.

His Lordship—I suppose the question is whether this case will come under the Companies Act or not?

Mr. Thomson—Yes, my Lord. The plaintiff is head of the Association, but not a member of it.

His Lordship—Then she cannot sue.

Mr. Thomson—Yes, because she is responsible for defaulters and is entitled to a commission on the drawings.

His Lordship—What is the consideration?

Mr. Thomson—That she is responsible for defaulting members.

Plaintiff was then called and said she started a money loan association on October 13th, 1905. There were twenty members, but she was not one.

His Lordship—Can you read or write?—No. Then who made out your book?—A lodger who is living with me.

His Lordship—It is about time this business was stopped, so far as I can see.

By Mr. Thomson—Defendant was a member of the association and owed \$70.

His Lordship—Let us get to the bottom of this! That's her book which the lodger wrote; where's the lodger?—Gone to the country.

Very well, you cannot read or write; how do you know she owes \$70?—Because she did not pay the contributions.

But if you cannot read, how do you know it is not there?—I note it down.

If you did not get the money the lodger might have?—Might have.

His Lordship—She has not proved herself to be the head of the concern. These things have got to be stopped some way or other. Generally stupid, ignorant women go into them and if the associations pay all right; if not they stop payment. Plaintiff, as head of the association, has got to prove her case.

Mr. Thomson—She says the defendant is in arrears \$70.

His Lordship—But she cannot show it to me. You don't expect I should take her evidence?

Mr. Thomson—No, but money lending association cases are not strong ones.

His Lordship—This is about the weakest I know of.

Mr. Harding—And the plaintiff is a witness for my side.

Under cross-examination plaintiff said she started the association for the purpose of earning a commission. The book produced by the defendant was the one issued by witness. She recognised it by the colour of the paper.

His Lordship—It is impossible for these sort of women to run these gambling dens; that is all they are.

Mr. Harding then called the defendant who denied plaintiff's story, stating that plaintiff would not pay money owing to her because her mother-in-law had absconded.

His Lordship—Judgment is for the defendant and costs. I think these *hais* do a great deal of harm because they are run by ignorant old women who, directly they find a member does not pay up, sue and thus lose more money.

Tuesday, 12th March.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

MANY CLAIMANTS.

The case was concluded in which the Fat Kee firm and the Hung Shung firm were plaintiffs, and the defendants were Chan Wai-chi and the Official Receiver in the bankruptcy of the Kwong Yik Wo and the Yan On Marine and Fire Insurance Company Ltd., and Chai Kee.

The claimants sought to recover various sums of money lent to the plaintiffs, the proceeds of sale of flour amounting to \$35,300 and damages.

The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Bowley (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley) appeared for Fat Kee and Hung Shung; Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. Holborow, (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon), acted for the Yan On Company, who it was explained, were plaintiffs as well as claimants in the issue; Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson, represented Chan Wai-chi; and Mr. Calthrop appeared for Chai Kee, one of the defendants.

After hearing lengthy evidence in the case his Lordship reserved his decision.

Wednesday, March 13th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A DISPUTED AGREEMENT.

The long standing case of Chan Wo and others v. Chan Yam to recover \$4,258 was continued.

Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Mr. John Hastings' office) appeared for plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Bruton and Hett) represented the defendant.

Mr. M. W. Slade briefly reviewed the circumstances already before the Court. In the year 1881, he said, the Wah Hing Loong firm brought an action against the Wah Tai firm, recovered judgment and issued execution through the British Consul at Canton and the Chinese authorities. A cross action was then instituted, and while it was pending the Wah Hing Loong firm was dissolved. The plaintiffs took over the firm's

assets and liabilities and defendants retired from it. An agreement was prepared and signed by certain persons present at a meeting. The dispute which was to be settled by the Court was whether an alteration which appeared on that agreement was made before or after its execution. The alteration was in reference to the debt of the Wah Tai and the dispute as to whether the word "included" had been altered from "excluded." Case adjourned.

Thursday, March 14th.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CHUNG SHUN KOOS AFFAIRS.

Re Chung Shun-koo *ex parte* Sam-Che-chuen.

Mr. Looker—Your Lordship made an order that Ho Tung was to pay the costs of one of the motions in this bankruptcy. On that motion Mr. Slade appeared and certain creditors were instructed by two sets of solicitors, one solicitor appeared for two creditors, and the other for three creditors and a debtor. We submit that only one set of solicitors' costs should be allowed. Creditors should not retain separate solicitors unless they paid their own costs.

His Lordship—In the first place, the Taxing Master shall decide the question first, and I think certain principles are laid down in the Bankruptcy Act.

Mr. Looker—As your Lordship pleases.

Mr. Master—With reference to the same bankruptcy, my Lord, about September last a sum of \$2,200 was paid into Court by the Official Receiver in order to prevent the sale of certain of the debtor's property by public auction. At that time there was some understanding after the property was eventually sold that the money should be returned. The person who paid it is the debtor's brother and I am instructed to make application that the money should be repaid to him.

His Lordship—I think the simplest thing would be for the Registrar to report on the matter.

A KOWLOON FAILURE.

Re H.W.R. Mattheay *ex parte* the debtor.

Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) who represented the debtor, made an application on behalf of the trustee that the bankrupt might be allowed to be paid out of the estate \$250 for the maintenance of himself and family.

His Lordship—How long is that to last?

Mr. Grist—It has really already been spent. The debtor has been in hospital for some time, and has had to support his wife and six children. He has no occupation at the present time so, of course, is living on credit.

His Lordship—Is not this a case for the Sharp hospital?

Mr. Grist—Perhaps it is one of the few occasions on which the Sharp hospital would be useful; at any rate, he is out of hospital now. The application is made under section 57 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance.

His Lordship—How much is there in the estate?

Mr. Grist—Some few thousand dollars. I don't know exactly how much as there is a great deal out on promissory notes.

His Lordship—If he does not get employment the whole of that money will be drawn.

Mr. Grist—I don't know that one could go on moving these applications, but at the present time it is a case in which your Lordship should exercise jurisdiction.

His Lordship—The Trustee controls the funds?

Mr. Grist—Yes.

His Lordship—Very well, but I think I should approach the management of Sharp's hospital and see what can be done.

RECEIVING ORDER GRANTED.

Re Ling Yau-luk *ex parte* the debtor.

This was a debtor's application made by Mr. Grist for a receiving order. An affidavit showed that the assets were \$500 cash and \$126,000 in debts. Since the affidavit was filed some of the debts had been collected and the debtor had in hand \$4,600.

The order was granted.

RECEIVING ORDER RESCINDED.

Re Yu Sze-yu *ex parte* the debtor.

This was an application for the rescission of a receiving order in which Mr. F. B. L. Bowley represented the debtor and Mr. John Hastings a number of creditors.

Mr. Hastings—My application is made on behalf of a creditor, but arrangements have been arrived at between Mr. Bowley and myself, and I understand the order will be consented to.

His Lordship—Is that so, Mr. Bowley?

Mr. Bowley—Yes, my friend has undertaken on behalf of the creditors to withdraw proceedings in China against the debtor's estate as he has paid all he can pay.

His Lordship granted the application.

DEBTOR'S RELEASE REFUSED.

Re Kwok Ying-man *ex parte* the debtor.

Mr. O. D. Thomson appeared to apply for the debtor's release under sub section 3 of section 10 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, and Mr. F. B. L. Bowley opposed the application.

Mr. Thomson stated that debtor was at present a prisoner under a writ of execution, but under the section referred to his Lordship had discretion to release him. He had committed no offence whatever, and under the circumstances should be discharged.

His Lordship—I cannot exercise that section except for special reason.

Mr. Thomson—I have no special reason.

Mr. Bowley said he appeared for the creditor on whose action the man was arrested and he was also instructed by several others to oppose the application. His Lordship would remember the circumstances under which defendant was arrested. He kept out of the way until the Chinese New Year, and during the holidays stated that he was going back to China in a day or two, but was prevented by the writ of execution. If release was granted the debtor would go back to Canton, and he had not yet filed his statement of affairs.

Mr. Thomson—That is because he is in gaol.

His Lordship—You can have access to him.

Mr. Thomson—But the room up there is not very suitable.

His Lordship—I always refuse these applications for release made directly after the bankruptcy, as the granting of them defeats the object of the imprisonment.

Mr. Thomson—This is not intended as a punishment, but as a means of collecting the debt.

His Lordship—I suppose it is intended to put on a certain amount of pressure?

Mr. Bowley—Yes.

His Lordship—Then I cannot take the pressure off merely because the man goes into bankruptcy. I don't think I can do it.

A POINT FOR CONSIDERATION.

Re the Yee Yuen firm, *ex parte* the debtors.

This was a public examination conducted by Mr. G. H. Wakeman, Official Receiver.

Pun Shing-chi said he was the managing partner of the bankrupt firm of cotton yarn and opium dealers. There were eight other partners, four of whom were dead, while the other four were not in the Colony.

Mr. Wakeman—The same question arises here, my Lord, as on a previous occasion—a debtor's petition signed by one partner.

His Lordship—What was the act of bankruptcy?

Mr. Morrell who appeared for debtor—Inability to pay his debts. In this case my partner is the only honest man of the lot. He stays to bear the brunt.

His Lordship—It has been decided over and over again that there is no such thing as the bankruptcy of a firm.

Mr. Morrell—It has been argued several times here, and held that one partner can sign a petition.

His Lordship—All the other partners are absent?

Mr. Wakeman—Yes.

His Lordship—The partners' names should be set out on the petition.

Mr. Morrell—He has disclosed their names on oath.

His Lordship—I don't think you can make a firm bankrupt when the partners are out of the jurisdiction.

Mr. Wakeman—A creditor can make them bankrupt.

Mr. Lordship—It has been held over and over again that there is no such thing as the bankruptcy of a firm. It is the bankruptcy of the individual partners, although for convenience of procedure the bankruptcy is under the name of the firm. I am afraid we shall have to suspend this for further consideration.

Mr. J. Hastings, who appeared for two of the largest creditors, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. and the Hongkong Cotton Co., said he was instructed that there was another partner the debtor was not mentioning, and he wished to cross-examine him about it. The other partner was a man of means in Hongkong.

His Lordship—We must dispose of this preliminary point first. Supposing you made the partners out of the jurisdiction bankrupt, how would you act?

Mr. Morrell—Take the firm's property.

His Lordship—The bankruptcy of a firm dissolves the partnership, therefore each partner becomes an individual with a share out of the partnership.

Mr. Morrell—To release a man's share you've got to sell the partnership.

Mr. Hastings—If a firm is made bankrupt, the general assets of that firm go into the bankruptcy, and the general partners with their individual assets also go in.

His Lordship—There is no such thing as the bankruptcy of a firm.

Mr. Hastings—That means that if a firm is made bankrupt, all the partners in the firm are bankrupt.

His Lordship—The bankruptcy of a firm means the bankruptcy of the individual partners. You mean if a firm is bankrupt the partners are bankrupt too.

Mr. Hastings—If a firm is bankrupt the individuals composing that firm are bankrupt.

His Lordship adjourned the hearing for a fortnight in order that authorities might be looked up.

YARN MERCHANT'S FAILURE.

Re Fung Wa-shan *ex parte* the debtor. Another public examination conducted by Mr. Wakeman. Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) appeared for the debtor, and Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) for David Sassoon and Co. and other creditors.

Fung Wa-shan said he was the sole proprietor of the Sun Hing firm of yarn merchants. He bought the business from his partners. When he started alone he had a capital of \$11,000, and in the first three years made a profit of \$27,000. In the following year, however, he lost everything but \$5,700. He accounted for his losses by the large fall in the price of cotton of which he bought several million dollars' worth every year. Formerly he took delivery of all his purchases. During the year before last he purchased 80,000 or 90,000 bales, and last year 70,000 or 80,000 a large amount of which he had not taken delivery of. All his liabilities were in respect of differences on cotton.

His Lordship—What are his liabilities?

Mr. Looker—Several lakhs of dollars.

Debtor, continuing, said he owned one house in Pottinger Street.

By Mr. Looker—When debtor started his present firm he had no branches. He did not tell David Sassoon and Co. or other creditors that he had a branch up the West River. When in partnership with his brother both of them attended to the business. They dissolved because debtor's brother saw there was not much profit made, and would not continue. His brother now had a yarn business in Canton. He could not say whether it was started before or after the dissolution. He shipped yarn to his brother in Canton, but the transactions were not very large. He used to ship about 1,000 odd bales a year. In 1903, the first year he started business, he bought about \$70,000 or \$80,000 worth of yarn, and about the same amount in 1904. In February 1905 witness first made up his accounts, and found that with profits and capital he had \$38,000. In 1905 he contracted to buy seven or eight million dollars worth of yarn, about 70,000 or 80,000 bales. He did not know from time to time how he stood financially. Sometimes he bought yarn because customers asked him and sometimes he bought without being asked to buy. Sometimes he saw whether he had enough money to pay for the purchases, and sometimes

he did not. When he entered into contracts in 1905 for several million dollars worth of yarn he knew that if customers did not pay him he could not pay. Many of these purchasers failed to take up their contracts and over 10,000 bales were left on his hands.

Debtor here could not, or would not answer certain questions.

Mr. Looker—It is obvious, my Lord, that if these bankrupts come here and say "how do I know" etc to certain questions, the public examination will be futile.

His Lordship—Quite so, but what power have I?—Why shouldn't the man have his books before him to answer questions?

No objection was raised to this.

Debtor, continuing, said he compared his accounts every day with the compradores of big European firms for goods delivered.

His Lordship, here warned the debtor that if he did not answer questions more accurately he would probably go to prison.

Debtor replied that he was speaking the whole truth. Proceeding he said he had books in which he entered his contracts for yarn. Although he still had yarn to take up at the end of 1905 he entered into contracts running into millions of dollars and deposited large sums of money with foreign firms to induce them to sell for him. He did not think if exchange rose and the price of yarn went down that his customers would have fulfilled their promises. At the beginning of 1906 he wanted to purchase goods from David Sassoon & Co., but they would not sell as he had so many contracts outstanding.

The examination was adjourned until next Thursday.

Friday, March 15th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

SUMMARY OR ORIGINAL?

In the case in which Mr. P. W. Goldring served five separate writs for Messrs. Cruz and Co. on B. H. Mahomed to recover \$2,500, his Lordship did not uphold the point by Mr. F. P. Hett that one action should have been brought in original jurisdiction. He was of opinion that Mr. Goldring was perfectly justified in bringing the actions separately, and intimated that he would hear them on Monday.

IN A HURLY TO PROCEED.

The action was called in which F. Blunck sued Long Hing and Co. to recover \$57.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) for the defendant.

Mr. Goldring applied for an adjournment, but Mr. Kong Sing mentioned that a bankruptcy petition had been presented against the defendant firm, and he was therefore anxious to get judgment.

Mr. Goldring—There is a petition presented against them, but I have instructions to oppose it.

His Lordship—That doesn't say you will be successful. I will adjourn the case until Wednesday, the day before the Bankruptcy Court sits.

SERVING A WRIT.

The Tsoi Ting On Tong sued Lu Fat to recover \$62.40 for goods sold and delivered.

Defendant answered to his name and promptly explained to his Lordship that he had a writ to serve on the manager of the plaintiff firm, one Tsoi Chan, but was unsuccessful in his search for that person.

When the plaintiff's manager entered the witness box his Lordship asked his name and he replied Tsoi Chan, but afterwards said it was Tsoi Cheng. The defendant, however, recognised him as the man he wanted to reach, and the writ was served there and then, his Lordship remarking that he could be served in any name he wanted.

A LESSON.

Tseung Ut proceeded against the San Shing Lee to recover \$20.28 due on account of lime.

Plaintiff gave evidence as to the dates on which the lime was ordered, and showed the entries in his books.

Ma Li, the owner of the defendant shop denied receiving any lime. As she sold it herself she had large quantities in her store. She had two sons, but neither assisted her in the business, and the accountant she formerly had embezzled money and ran away.

His Lordship—Did you bring your books? Have you got any books or did the accountant take them?—No, he left them.

Why didn't you bring them?—I didn't understand.

Very well, judgment and costs for plaintiff, and take this as a lesson. If you are going to run a shop like this you'd better have one of your sons to look after the books.

Defendant—Shall I bring the account books?

His Lordship—I don't want to see them now.

EXTRAORDINARY SCENES IN COURT.

ARGUMENT AND IRRELEVANCY.

The further hearing of the charge of larceny preferred by the British American Tobacco Company against T. H. Kane, shipping clerk, was the occasion of remarkable scenes at the Magistrate's Court on March 13. Mr. C. D. Melbourne was on the bench, Mr. M. J. D. Stephens prosecuted and Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton, of Messrs. Brutton and Hett, defended.

The charge referred to the theft of 100 cases of "Egyptian Delight" cigarettes.

At the previous hearing Mr. A. Harrison, the manager of the prosecuting company, declined to say whether the signature to a letter produced was his or not, while Mr. Stephens objected to the production of the letter.

Mr. Stephens—I wish to mention before the case proceeds that inquiries have been made with regard to the letter referred to by my friend yesterday, Mr. Shewan, to whom the letter was sent, says that the letter was sent out without his authority or knowledge, and I must ask for it to be returned. It is private and has nothing to do with the case.

His Worship—I don't know whether I can do anything or not, Mr. Stephens.

Mr. Stephens—It was not given up by Mr. Fung Wa chun.

Mr. Brutton—It was not?

Mr. Stephens—No.

Mr. Brutton—Some one is lying.

His Worship—Mr. Shewan has his remedy. If the letter was stolen—

Mr. Stephens—I don't say it was stolen.

His Worship—If it was abstracted—

Mr. Stephens—It was handed out without authority. The clerk has been instructed to get the letter back.

His Worship—I don't think I can do anything at present, because it has been put in and marked for identification.

Mr. Stephens—I think it should be shown on the evidence how it came to be there.

His Worship—I am afraid I cannot do anything. If I had the power I would.

Mr. Stephens—I object to it being there.

His Worship—On what authority?

Mr. Stephens—It is quite irrelevant. I objected all along.

His Worship—I have noted that.

Mr. Stephens—It is irrelevant matter and should not be brought in.

His Worship—If you can point to any authority—

Mr. Stephens—It is laid down. (Quoting.) Continuing—It is done to affect the prosecution. It has nothing whatever to do with the case. My client has a right to protect his business.

His Worship—The witness was asked if he knew anything about the letter. He was asked several times if it was his signature. It was easy enough to deny if it was not his signature.

Mr. Stephens—That is so. We have not admitted it. I think, your Worship, there will be an application to you before long that that letter be returned.

His Worship—At present I can't. I can make a note of it. I don't see what I can do for you. If the prosecution do not make out their case, the defendant will be discharged and the letter will be returned. If not he will be committed for trial and the letter—

Mr. Stephens—In the meantime we say the letter should not be there. It should be returned to Messrs Shewan Tomes.

His Worship—It is easy enough for them to recover the letter. They know the course open to them. I don't know whether you are instructed on their behalf.

Mr. Stephens—No.

Mr. Brutton—It is entirely in their own hands. A press copy of the letter can be put in and that letter can be taken out.

After a discussion as to the wisdom of this course—

Mr. Brutton asked Mr. Stephens if he produced a press copy of the letter.

Mr. Stephens—I won't answer it.

Mr. Brutton—I am asking a civil question.

Mr. Stephens—I am not here to answer questions.

Mr. Brutton—You are the solicitor for the prosecution and I ask you if you produce this copy. Yes or no?

Mr. Stephens—I won't answer it. I am not here to be questioned.

Mr. Brutton—Any question put to the other side should demand a reply. (To his Worship)—You see the position they take up.

Mr. Stephens—I am not here to be examined. You can ask the witness.

Mr. Brutton—I would ask your Worship to dismiss the case. If the man does not answer the questions put to him your Worship has power to dismiss the case at once.

Mr. Stephens—I am not here to answer questions. But I propose to put Mr. Harrison in the box for further examination.

Mr. Brutton—I ask your Worship to dismiss the case, because a question which they are bound to answer has not been answered. With regard to the letter, it may have been stolen, but that has nothing to do with it. The letter is there. I ask your Worship to dismiss the case.

His Worship—I cannot do it. I don't know whether you wish a subpoena?

Mr. Brutton—He should answer the question put to him. It is not for him to say whether it is irrelevant or not. He does not know whether it is irrelevant. I know. He should answer the questions put to him unless your Worship says he should not do so.

Mr. Stephens—I will leave it to your Worship.

His Worship—The last time witness refused to say whether it was his signature. A document was produced and when asked he said—I make no statement.

Mr. Brutton—In these circumstances I ask for the case to be dismissed. You see the position. I am defending this man. I am in a position to show there is no charge against this man. I am entitled to have my question answered. I am entitled to have the case dismissed on that ground. If the prosecutor refuse to answer the questions put to him, I ask your Worship to exercise your authority and dismiss the case.

Mr. Stephens—If your Worship will take my objection to the question. If he is to be forced in this way to produce the letter—I don't say he will—it is under reservation. He objects to answer the question.

His Worship—I don't know what the question is.

Mr. Stephens—Perhaps Mr. Brutton will put it again.

Mr. Brutton repeated the question to witness, asking if that was his signature to the letter produced.

Witness—I make no statement with regard to that letter. I maintain it is irrelevant to the charge.

Mr. Brutton—On that ground and on that answer I ask your Worship to dismiss the case.

His Worship—Have I the power to discharge on that?

Mr. Brutton—You have the power to discharge at any time.

Mr. Stephens—I don't think so, your Worship.

His Worship—I don't think I have the power, Mr. Brutton.

Mr. Brutton—If an answer is not given by the prosecutor it is his duty to answer the question. It is not his duty to say whether it is irrelevant or not. If he likes to deny it he can.

His Worship—the only says it is irrelevant.

Mr. Brutton—He is not the judge of relevancy. The only questions he can decline to answer are questions which incriminate him. If he is going to say—

His Worship—He cannot say it is his privilege.

Witness—It might be injurious to my business.

His Worship—Can't you get a subpoena to have the letter back?

Mr. Brutton—I am entitled even now.

His Worship—I will adjourn it if you like. In the meantime I will look up the point.

Mr. Brutton—As your Worship pleases.

His Worship—Has Mr. Stephens any objection?

Mr. Stephens—I don't object.

His Worship—I am sorry that this delay has been occasioned. I had hoped to finish this morning.

Mr. Brutton—If the prosecution put all these obstacles in the way, it can't be helped.

Mr. Stephens—To save the time of the Court and avoid all this argument and bickering I would advise my client—leaving the legal question to be decided either by your Worship or by the Supreme Court—to make a statement with reference to that letter, the question of relevancy to be argued later. I say it is irrelevant and I ask your Worship to put that down. That question can be decided at the Supreme Court.

Mr. Brutton—It will never get there.

Mr. Stephens—I have a right to reserve my right. He is quite right to refuse to answer the question because it is irrelevant.

Mr. Brutton—I submit it rests entirely with your Worship to say whether that letter is irrelevant or not.

His Worship—Mr. Stephens has seen the letter and it is easy enough for his client to answer the question. I think I know what Mr. Brutton wants to prove by that letter. I think Mr. Brutton should produce that letter and ask the question.

Mr. Stephens—We have something to guard ourselves against. That letter might affect my clients' business.

Mr. Brutton—You are trying to affect my client's liberty.

Mr. Stephens—If your Worship says he is bound to answer the question I shall be bound by it.

His Worship—On what grounds do you object to the question being answered?

Mr. Stephens—It contains references to the manner in which the company conduct their business in this colony.

His Worship—As a general rule a witness can't refuse to answer any question merely because it relates to private matters. If you like to have a consultation with your client—

Mr. Stephens—I have had a consultation with him since nine o'clock this morning.

His Worship—It will be ruled out by the Crown Solicitor if that is irrelevant.

Mr. Brutton—It will be produced again at the Supreme Court if it is out.

His Worship—The unfortunate part of it is that I think it is relevant and admissible.

Mr. Stephens—My client has heard your ruling.

To Witness—You are prepared to answer that question on that explanation?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Brutton—Will your Worship note that he refused to answer the question?

Mr. Stephens—He has not.

Mr. Brutton—Now, Mr. Harrison, was that letter signed by you?

Witness—Look here, Mr. Brutton, I am not going to have answers put into my mouth. I submit I ought to give my evidence in my own way in my own words. Mr. Brutton is not to say what I have to say. If I am compelled to say what Mr. Brutton dictates to me then I must refuse to answer.

Mr. Brutton—Is this letter signed by you?

Witness—I wish to make a statement.

His Worship—You have a perfect right to make any statement under re-examination.

Mr. Brutton—Is this letter signed by you?

Witness—yes.

Mr. Brutton—Does this letter refer to "Egyptian Delight" tobacco?

Witness—I cannot be made to impart anything which is not there.

Mr. Brutton—Does this letter refer to "Egyptian Delight" tobacco?

Witness—Let me look at the letter.

Mr. Brutton hands the letter to him.

Mr. Brutton—You know what is in the letter?

Witness—I am not prepared to answer that.

Mr. Brutton—You decline to answer that. Is that what you mean? Yes or no?

Witness did not reply.

Mr. Brutton—Do you decline to answer it? That is my question, Mr. Harrison.

No answer.

His Worship—He says I cannot answer.

Mr. Brutton—He says he declines to answer. He knows what it refers to so do I.

Witness—I have given you my answer.

Mr. Brutton—You have not.

Witness—I have given you my answer.

Mr. Brutton—I shall make application to commit this witness for contempt. I am entitled to—

Witness—I shall not use the words he chooses to put into my mouth.

His Worship—The question asked is: "Does this letter refer to 'Egyptian Delight' tobacco?" Mr. Stephens is here and you can clear up anything you like under re-examination.

Witness—I will give you an answer. That letter does not refer to the "Egyptian Delight" tobacco which is the subject of this charge.

Mr. Brutton—I will ask you another question. Does it refer to "Egyptian Delight" tobacco?

Witness—It does not refer to the 100 cases, the subject of this charge.

Mr. Brutton—Does it refer to "Egyptian Delight" tobacco generally?

Witness—It refers to the 100 cases of tobacco which came by the—

Mr. Brutton—(reading)—"We have frequent consignments which are always burnt on the foreshore here because they are of no value whatever." Does that paragraph refer to "Egyptian Delight" tobacco?

Witness—I have given you a sufficient answer.

Mr. Brutton—You have not.

Witness—I cannot say without prejudicing the Company's business.

Mr. Brutton—I don't care about the Company's business.

Witness—I don't suppose you do.

Mr. Brutton—I ask you if this letter refers to "Egyptian Delight" tobacco?

Yes or no.

Witness—It would not be fair to myself to answer that.

Mr. Brutton—I don't care about the Company or yourself. I insist upon an answer. It is only fair to my client.

Witness—Sufficient has been said about this.

Mr. Brutton—I am the best judge of that. It is not what you consider. You are here to answer questions that are put to you.

Witness—I am prepared to answer the questions put to me in a decent and gentlemanly manner.

Mr. Brutton—I repeat the question. Does that letter refer generally to "Egyptian Delight" tobacco?

Witness—I would like a consultation with my solicitor, with your Worship's permission.

His Worship—I think the witness is entitled to that.

Mr. Brutton—I don't think he is, your Worship. If he declines to answer any question which the Court permit he shall be guilty of contempt of Court.

His Worship—I think the witness has a perfect right to see his solicitor.

Mr. Brutton—If he declines to answer a civil question he should be committed for contempt of Court.

Mr. Stephens—He does not decline to answer.

Solicitor and client then leave the court.

On returning—

Mr. Brutton repeats the question.

Witness—The letter refers to a shipment of "Egyptian Delight" tobacco.

Mr. Brutton—Does this paragraph (already quoted) refer to "Egyptian Delight" tobacco?

Witness—In certain circumstances it does.

Mr. Brutton—Have you received consignments of tobacco from the American Tobacco Company in the United States similar to that "Egyptian Delight"?

Witness—We have received from America similar shipments.

Mr. Brutton—Have you received consignments from the American Tobacco Company.

That is the question?—We have received from America. I must put it that way. I am sorry, but I must.

Mr. Brutton—All right.

You have received from America similar tobacco?—Purporting to be similar.

Do you as a branch office in Hongkong deal with other people in America than the American Tobacco Company?—Yes.

You do. Do you receive from them "Egyptian Delight" tobacco?—Tobacco is shipped.

Enough—I ask you a plain question?—There is a mistake in the letter. That is why.

We don't want any mistakes. There is a plain statement to go upon?

Mr. Brutton then repeated the question.

Witness—"Egyptian Delight" tobacco is shipped to us by the British America Company.

Well, then, call it the British America Company?—I think not.

You know you are the manager?—I think we do not now. What we have done in the past I don't know.

I am only speaking of what you know?—I think not. A man can't say any more than he thinks.

Then we may take it that this letter refers only to "Egyptian Delight" tobacco consigned to you by the British America Tobacco Company in the United States?—I think you may take it so.

You are the writer of this letter?—I think you may take it so.

I want a plain answer. Yes or no?—You can't make me say so.

Question repeated.

Witness—What company did you say, Mr. Brutton?

Mr. Brutton—British America Company.

There was a mistake in this letter.

When you wrote America Tobacco Company you mean the British America Tobacco Company?—Yes.

Then you say that the 100 cases referred to in this letter did not form part of the consignment which you say was stolen?—They are not.

Were instructions given that the cases arriving by the "Lowther Castle" were to be destroyed?—Yes.

About 5th or 6th or 7th February?—Yes.

Witness gave evidence that the portion of the tobacco in the hands of the police referred to the shipment ex "Lowther Castle" alluded to in the letter which was to be burned. He made a mistake the previous day when he mentioned that a certain consignment came by the "Nubia". It should have been the "Verona".

Witness was questioned as to when delivery had been taken and replied that he could not answer the questions asked without a reference to documents.

A dispute arose as to whether witness said he took delivery of the goods. Mr. Stephens denied that the witness admitted taking delivery of the tobacco and explained that the misunderstanding arose because Mr. Brutton asked his questions so quickly.

Mr. Brutton—Do you think I ask the questions haphazard?

Mr. Stephens—No, I do not.

Witness—These were Mr. Brutton's words and not mine.

Mr. Brutton then served witness with a subpoena to produce certain documents, and after further discussion the hearing was adjourned till after 11th.—On resuming—

A press copy of the letter in dispute was handed in, but his Worship said he did not think he had power to withdraw the original copy of a letter put in and replace it with a press copy.

Witness was cross-examined as to godown rent receipts.

Will your books show when delivery was taken?—I'm afraid I can't claim much acquaintance with our books.

Will you be able to produce your rent receipts?—I think so.

Will they show when delivery was taken?—I cannot say, but I think I shall be able to procure for you the date when delivery was taken.

Mr. Brutton—Subject to these papers being produced, your Worship, I will not proceed further with this witness.

Witness—Do I understand the cross-examination is finished, your Worship?

His Worship—With the exception of any questions which may arise on these documents.

After Mr. Stephens had proceeded to re-examine, another document was produced on which it was necessary for Mr. Brutton to cross-examine. Speaking about a certain 100 cases of tobacco he said: They were taken delivery of on or before November 9th?—I don't admit that. How can I when I don't know when the goods were taken out of the Godowns. Your Worship, the question is nonsensical.

Does the receipt up to December 9th show any rent payable in respect of the 100 cases of Egyptian Delight tobacco ex s.s. *Verona*?—It does not.

Does the one of January 9th?—It is not a bit of use asking me these questions. I say they are fools' questions.

They may be in your opinion, but still I ask them!—Then you must give me time to answer them.

I ask you if the 100 cases—You ask me what I am not in a position to answer.

Well, we'll put the question in another way. If the 100 cases were in the godown after November 9th, would you be charged with rent in the receipt or not if the items were delivered you about December 9th?—I could not say. It is not a bit of good asking these questions and I am not going to answer them. I am not acquainted with the Godown Company's business and so forth.

You said to-day accounts were rendered monthly?—I never said positively. I said I thought they were. (To his worship)—I call upon your Worship to adjourn the case until to-morrow. The questions are coming one on the other, and they are not in my pocket or in my head.

Mr. Brutton asked witness to produce a certain godown receipt.

Witness did, and threw it across the Court to the solicitor.

Mr. Brutton pointed out to his Worship that witness had been asked to produce receipts.

Witness—A man with a case would never say such a thing. I promised to produce the receipts to-morrow and you adjourned your cross-examination, and now interrupt the re-examination.

Do you know so little of your own business that you cannot say whether you've had tobacco in the godown since November 9th?—You may put it that way if you like. I cannot tell you from my mind.

Mr. Brutton—We adjourned the case this morning for him to produce the documents mentioned and he produces one.

Witness—Mr. Stephens, are you going to re-examine again?

Mr. Brutton—I haven't finished yet. If you can produce one document you can produce the others.

His Worship—You must give him time.

Witness—I suppose if you gave me notice to produce something from Singapore this morning you would expect it here this afternoon! That is the sort of reasonable man you are.

Mr. Stephens—My client is doing his best to get these documents, and was working hard all the tiffin hour.

Mr. Brutton—I took my coat off to work during tiffin.

Mr. Stephens—Mr. Brutton does not give him a fair chance, and hints are thrown out that he is not willing to obtain the documents.

His Worship—I don't think Mr. Brutton means that.

Mr. Stephens—He takes to bullying the witness in such a way that he is not used to. (To Mr. Brutton)—Have you finished?

Mr. Brutton—No, I have not.

Mr. Stephens—Well, I can go on now?

Mr. Brutton—I don't care whether you go on or not.

Mr. Stephens then re-examined the witness, and the case for the prosecution closed.

Mr. Brutton then applied for leave to recall Li Kee.

Mr. Stephens strongly objected.

Mr. Brutton—My friend must be very much afraid of what this witness is going to say.

Mr. Stephens—No, not at all; but if this man has been interfered with like that man Li Tat-soi, I am going to make a very strong point. Mr. Brutton interfered with a witness of this Court while under examination. The witness left the Court on Saturday at 1.30 p.m. and Mr. Brutton had the

audacity to see him between that time and Monday. That is a point I am going to bring forward very strongly.

His Worship—The man in his evidence says he went to Mr. Brutton.

Mr. Stephens—He does, but if the man came to me I wouldn't see him. If I did, that would redound on me as a solicitor of the Court. No judge would ever allow such a thing, and it has been objected to before. I have got it out of the witness that he was in Mr. Brutton's office on Sunday, and that Mr. Brutton saw him. I say if he went Mr. Brutton should not have seen him, but Mr. Brutton went to the office on Sunday, a day on which he shouldn't have gone, and saw the man.

Mr. Brutton—Certainly I did.

At this stage some person in Court made a remark to Mr. Stephens in an undertone, and the solicitor replied, loud enough to be heard—No, no. I can't say that.

Mr. Brutton—You can say anything you like, Mr. Stephens, but it is a fortunate thing you are not a young man.

Mr. Stephens—Certainly I am not a young man, but I am as strong as a young man if you refer to that.

His Worship here decided that Li Kee should be recalled.

Mr. Brutton—I suppose my friend will say I have also tampered with this witness.

Mr. Stephens—I haven't said so. That has got to be found out later.

Li Kee, recalled, said he was detained at No. 7 Police Station some days before the case. Whenever he went out a detective followed him. He was told by a detective that five cases were taken in a truck to 303 Queen's Road. On account of being detained, and not knowing what would happen, he related to the Court what the detective told him. After giving his evidence he was released. He was also told that Kane, the man without a queue, had taken five cases to 410 Queen's Road. At the Police Court the detective said, Kane is a man without a queue; do you see him? Witness pointed to defendant and the detective said 'Yes.'

Re-examined—He had not spoken to Li Tat-soi since March 5th, neither had he been taken to any foreign office. When last he gave evidence he was in a state of confusion and great alarm, and pointed out Kane.

Further evidence was called and the case adjourned.

THE GOVERNOR AND BRAVERY.

CHINAMAN PRESENTED WITH BELILIOS STAR.

It was in the *Daily Press* that the story was first published of how a Chinaman during the black squall of January 28th dived beneath an upturned sampan and rescued several countrymen. H.E. the Governor read the story, verified the facts, and then, considering such an act worthy of recognition, moved in the matter, the result being the presentation at Government House on March 12th.

There were gathered together in the spacious drawing room with His Excellency, the Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Hon. Mr. E. A. Irving, Hon. Mr. F. J. Baddeley, Captain Coleman A.D.C., Mr. R. A. B. Pensonby, Mr. J. Dyer Ball and Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher.

Ng So-tai, the hero of the hour, was then ushered into the room by Sergeant Gordon, and Captain Baddeley asked the Governor to present the star.

His EXCELLENCY first addressed the company, saying: It is a fortunate thing that all our disasters have a brighter side. After the typhoon of the 18th September there were a large number of cases of duty well done, and of gallant deeds. Then again, I remember on the night of the burning of the *Hankow*, the 13th October, seeing two small vessels, belonging to Chinese rescuing a number of people from the burning ship until they themselves caught fire. Again, in the squall of 28th January, though there was heavy loss of life there were as many people saved from the water as were actually drowned.

The Governor's further remarks were to Ng So-tai and he spoke as follows, Mr. J. Dyer Ball acting as interpreter: It is, of course

every man's duty to use his utmost endeavours to save life, and it is only where a man has risked his own life to save others that the Government takes notice of it. The report that Sergeant Gordon made of the gallant behaviour of Ng So-tai resulted in the Government making representation to the trustees of the fund that has been established to recognise such cases. Ng So-tai, you are a brave man, who have done your duty well, and I present you with this star, which you and your descendants should always be proud of.

His Excellency then pinned the star on Ng's breast, the recipient bowing his thanks. The Governor thanked the gentlemen present for their attendance.

AN INTERESTING CHINESE WEDDING.

The relationship between the families of His Excellency Wu Ting Fang and the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai was (as we briefly announced on Mar. 15) cemented by another alliance which took place on Thursday, when Mr. Wu Chao Chu, only son of the distinguished Chinese statesman, was married to the eldest daughter of the gentleman who is the senior unofficial member of the Legislative Council of Hongkong. The wedding was more elaborate than the usual Chinese wedding, and though several changes were introduced the occasion lost nothing of the picturesque effect which distinguishes such an event among the Chinese. The bridal chair was an innovation, being similar to the official chair used in Peking, and as the distance from the residence of His Excellency at Seymour Terrace to the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai's house in Lower Castle Road was so short, the bridal procession took a lengthened route through part of the city. The bride arrived at 5.30 on Thursday, and after her reception, the gentlemen friends were entertained at the Hung Fan Lau restaurant in Queen's Road. The guests, who were numerous included Mr. Li Chee, representing H.E. Viceroy Chou Fu, and other officials from Canton. The celebrations were continued yesterday, when there was a social gathering at which His Excellency addressed the young couple, exhorting them on the duties of the new lives on which they had entered. This was another innovation, which certainly did not detract from the importance of the occasion.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT).

March 12th.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT.

Viceroy Chou Fu has appointed Expectant Taotai Ho Yau (brother of Dr. Ho Kai of Hongkong) to the following positions:—Deputy of I. M. Customs and Native Customs, and Deputy for the Agriculture, Commerce and Labour Bureau. Mr. Ho Yau is ex-Consul General of San Francisco. He was educated in England and was at Washington with his brother-in-law, H. E. Wu-Ting-Fang.

OPIUM REGULATIONS.

The Government appears really desirous of stamping out the habit of smoking opium in Kwangtung. The Provincial Treasurer, the Judge and two other officials have drawn up regulations and instructions have been given to forward copies to all the officials in the Province. They will be in force within three months from date of receipt of the despatch. One of the regulations is that all the habitual smokers have to take out a licence from the local authorities with full particulars of age, name, native place, place of residence, occupation and daily consumption of opium. People above 60 years of age on obtaining the licence will be permitted to continue to smoke. Those who are under 60 years of age will be given a limited time to give up the habit.

FAMINE INEVITABLE

The price of rice in the Lung Koon district has risen to almost \$8 per picul. It is reported that the rice merchants in that place have raised the price on account of the scarcity of this commodity in Canton. The people were very angry with the rice merchants for putting the price up and a mob collected together in

front of the rice guild hall. They attacked and set fire to the building. A force of police was sent out to quell the riot. Two of the rioters were shot and ten or more wounded. This made matters worse and the people got more angry. All the shops outside the city closed up. On the 9th instant thousands of hungry men robbed all the rice and money from the rice shops outside the city. The magistrate on being informed of what had occurred ordered all the city gates to be immediately closed. The riot has not been quelled yet. It is reported that the magistrate has telegraphed to the Canton authorities to despatch a company of soldiers to restore order.

PAPER TRADE.

Fat Shan has the largest native paper trade in the Kwangtung Province. In recent years considerable foreign paper has been imported. This competition has reduced the native production to a certain extent. Large credit has hitherto been given by wholesale merchants to dealers, and owing to bad times many of the dealers have failed. The wholesale merchants' guild has called a meeting at which a resolution was passed that in future no credit will be given to dealers, all transactions to be cash less 2 per cent. discount.

PIRACY.

A Junk plying between Fatshan and Samsui ran on a sand bank near Sha Yee and all efforts to get her off failed. Pirates soon boarded her and ransacked the junk, carrying off over \$7,000 worth of booty. This robbery was committed in broad daylight.

March 13th.

PEACE RESTORED AT TUNGKOO.

On the 11th instant the Brigadier General of Kwong Chow was despatched with a regiment of soldiers to Tonkun (Tung Koon) by the Viceroy to suppress the riot. It is now reported that peace has been restored and the shops have resumed business. Over ten rioters were arrested. The local gentry have started subscriptions in aid of the needy and hungry.

VICEROY'S SWEET REASONABLENESS.

It is reported that the following Hongkong Chinese presses, viz: Sheung Po, Kuang Yik Po and others whose newspapers were prohibited to enter Canton by Viceroy Shum have sent a joint petition stating that they are willing to abide by the three laws that were promulgated last year and begged His Excellency Viceroy Chou Fu to remove the prohibition and permit their newspapers to re-enter Canton. Viceroy Chou Fu has intimated that he will order the prohibition to be removed as he believes that the people's mind has already been enlightened through the Press and that their wisdom will improve considerably if more newspapers were in circulation.

BLOOD THIRSTY OFFICIAL.

It is said that the Wai Chow Prefect has the habit of decapitating criminals indiscriminately without first carefully considering the lightness or gravity of the offence committed. Many petitions have been sent to the Viceroy and the Provincial Judge complaining that the prefect had erroneously executed prisoners. His Excellency intends to remove him and place Lau Man, prefect of Siu Chow, in his position.

ANOTHER RAILWAY INVESTIGATOR.

A Peking telegram states that the Central Government intends to delegate H. E. Yeong Shi Ki, Secretary to the Board of Agriculture and Commerce at Peking, as envoy extraordinary to Canton to investigate the Canton-Hankow Railway affairs.

VICEROY'S SON COMES.

Taotai Chou Ho Ming, second son of the Viceroy, has left Shanghai and is now on his way to Canton to visit his father. His Excellency has despatched the gunboat *Shum Hong* to Hongkong to receive his son.

FLOODING HONGKONG WITH SUBSIDIARY COINS.

Steps have been taken by the British authorities here to restrict the export of subsidiary coins to Hongkong. It is reported that the H. B. M. Consul General here has sent a despatch to Viceroy Chou Fu stating that the Chinese Government mint has been placing too much subsidiary coins in the market which is doing great injury to trade and commerce. The director of the mint received instructions from the Viceroy to investigate and report. It is said that His Excellency has given instructions to the director to stop coining

subsidiary coins for three months so as to see the results on the market. The Viceroy will reply to the Consul General in the next few days.

REMUNERATIVE MORALITY.

The Viceroy being desirous of raising the moral standard of officials, has strictly prohibited gambling and opium-smoking. Any official impeached will be imprisoned and his house and property confiscated. This will prove a handsome source of revenue to the Government if the threat is carried out in earnest.

March 14th.

FAMINE SUPPLIES.

Viceroy Chou Fu has instructed expectant prefect Shum Chi Kin to proceed to the Tung Koon district with 3,000 piculs of rice and sell it at a cheap price to the famine-stricken people.

MINING.

There are numerous rich but undeveloped mines in the King Chow Prefecture. Viceroy Chou Fu is aware that Wu Chi-chun is one of the wealthiest merchants in the Straits Settlements and known to take great interest in mines. His Excellency has cabled for him to come to Canton to hold a consultation regarding the opening of mines in that prefecture.

RAILWAY SUBSCRIPTIONS AGAIN.

Viceroy Chou Fu has authorized Taotai Wen Tso-tsoi and Lai Kwai-pui to invite people to subscribe for shares in the Kowloon-Canton Railway Company. The officials replied that they are not aware of the conditions of that railway company. Moreover the time limit is too short. As double the amount of the original capital has been promised for the Canton-Hankow Railway, and the shareholders do not desire the company's funds to be deposited in foreign banks who would reap the benefit of the use of the money but think it unsafe to invest it with the local banks, Wen and Lai suggested that part of the over-subscribed capital be applied to take up shares in the Kowloon-Canton Railway.

March 15th.

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY SHARES.

In reply to a communication sent to the Canton-Hankow Railway Company by Viceroy Chou Fu, the directors of the company said that the suggestion of using the company's funds to subscribe for shares in the Kowloon-Canton Railway is a matter which should be placed before the shareholders of the company for their consideration and discussion. They have decided to notify the shareholders that a meeting will be convened at the company's office on the 2nd proximo to discuss the question.

RICE.

The local authorities anticipate that there will be a considerable rise of price in rice. The Provincial Treasurer has already instructed the Nam Hoi and Poon Yu magistrates to request all the charitable institutions in Canton to purchase large quantities of rice as soon as possible and sell it at a cheap price to the people of the Kwangtung Province.

RECOMMENDED FOR DISTINCTION.

In the 10th moon last year acting Admiral Li Tsun and Taotai Cheong Yuk Nam presented 20,000 taels and 60,000 taels respectively to the Government as royalties for the encouragement of education in the Kwangtung Province. Lately Viceroy Chou Fu sent a memorial to the Throne reporting the munificent gifts of those two officials and recommended that rank of the first degree may be conferred on them.

POSTAL PROGRESS.

The Imperial Chinese Post Office has again issued instructions to employ more postmen. Candidates applying for positions are required to go through an examination of Chinese characters and names of localities. Many similar notifications were issued last year. This proves that the postal service is already making headway.

During February the mean rainfall in Hongkong was 0.165 ins. against 1.86 ins. the mean for the same month in the previous twenty years. The total sunshine was 96.5 hours, against 86.7 hours, the mean for the same month in the previous twenty years.

COMPANIES.

CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP CO. LD.

The twenty-fourth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the China and Manila Steamship Co. Ltd. was held at the office of the general managers, Messrs. Shewan, Tomes and Co., on March 13th. Mr. R. Shewan presided, and there were also present Dr. J. W. Noble, Messrs. H. P. White and N. A. Siebs (consulting committee), G. Moffatt (secretary), A. G. Gordon and R. E. Barretto. The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN then said: Gentlemen, the report and accounts were issued to you on 25th February, and with your permission we will now take them as read. As I foreshadowed to you at last year's meeting, the past year's business does not compare favourably with that of 1905; both cargo and passengers fell off, our gross income being some \$80,000 less than before. By the closest economy we have made up partly for this so that our net profit is only about \$27,000 below last year's. After allowing for depreciation and placing \$1,000 to credit of Reserve Fund as per Articles of Association, there remains sufficient to pay a dividend of 1.00 per share absorbing \$26,000, and leaving \$365.57 to be carried forward. You will observe that our loan from the Company's Bankers was reduced from about \$180,000 to \$133,000, and that interest paid has accordingly come down to \$9,835 as against \$13,189 paid the year before. The Sundry Debtors and Outstanding Receipts on 31st December have since nearly all been collected. As regards the present year, I can only say that we have not begun it badly, and that at the moment there is a much stronger feeling in the coasting freight market, which I hope will keep up. Cargo is, however, far from plentiful in this trade nowadays. The number of Chinese shippers on whom we used to depend for a great deal of cargo is much reduced, many of them having closed their firms in Manila, and ceased to do business there. The complete alteration that has taken place in the character of the China-Manila trade amply justifies the step we took in building boats for first-class passenger traffic, for had we the old type of boat and only Chinese passengers and cargo to depend upon now, we should be badly off indeed. I shall be glad to answer any questions before moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

Mr. GORDON seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. BARRETTO, seconded by Mr. GORDON and agreed that Messrs. N. A. Siebs, H. P. White, A. V. Apoor and Dr. J. W. Noble be re-elected to the consulting committee.

Dr. NOBLE proposed the re-appointment of Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin as auditors.

Mr. WHITE seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants are ready now.

GEORGE FENWICK & Co. LD.

The eighteenth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in George Fenwick and Co. Ltd. was held at the Hongkong Hotel at noon on March 16th. Mr. A. Rodger presided, other shareholders present being Mr. W. Parlane (director), J. Andrew (general manager), Messrs. J. Cerquodale, J. D. Kinnaird, J. Forbes, J. Irving and H. Percy Smith.

The GENERAL MANAGER having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen—With your permission we will adopt our usual practice and take the report and statement of accounts as read. Your directors regret that the year under review, so far as engineering and shipbuilding are concerned, began with a dullness in trade which continued for eight months; but we are glad to say that notwithstanding this, we got a fair share of the work offering, profits on which were small owing to the strong competition prevailing.

During the latter months of the year, a briskness in business set in, and we have been kept fully employed in all departments since. The launches, buildings, plant and machinery have been kept in a good state of repair. Unfortunately the severe typhoon of September 18th caused us some inconvenience and monetary loss, to the extent of \$2,400, at North Point, and \$1,701 at the Wanchai Works—in all \$4,101. The damage wrought at Wanchai has since been made good: whilst about a third of that at North Point which required immediate attention was repaired at once. The report and statement of accounts now before you are very clearly detailed, and therefore it is needless for me to repeat the figures therein stated. We trust the proposed division of profits as presented meets with your approval. I informed you at our last general meeting that we had petitioned the Colonial Office for permission to carry on our business at Wanchai for a further period of three years. This, I am glad to tell you, they have been good enough to grant. Our new site at North Point is filled in and the reclamation finished and ready for building purposes, but the lifeless state of the land and property market in the Colony at present retards our contemplated removal there. Late in August, we contracted to build two steel stern-wheel steamers for the inland waters of Indo-China. At the end of the year the work was well under way. Since then, both have been launched. One is now completed and ready for delivery, and the other should be finished about the middle of next month. Another order was also booked to build six large wooden lighters for Hongkong owners. I am sorry to say we have been unable to finish the work as soon as was anticipated, owing to a scarcity of carpenters in the Colony since the typhoon. The European staff have worked in harmony and carried out their respective duties willingly. I am pleased to say we have started 1907 under more favourable conditions than last year and the prospects seem much brighter, so far as business and enquiries are concerned. I do not think there is anything further I can say which will interest you, but before moving the adoption of the report and accounts, should any further information be desired I shall be pleased to give it to the best of my ability.

No further information being asked for, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. IRVING seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. A. RODGER was re-elected to the directorate on the motion of Mr. FORBES, seconded by Mr. MCCORQUODALE.

Mr. KINNAIRD proposed the re-election of Mr. Percy Smith as auditor.

Mr. IRVING seconded. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.

The statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1906, was as follows:—

After writing off the sum of \$3,000.00 for depreciation the net profit for the year amounts to \$21,470.10 to which has to be added the sum of \$8,915.84 brought forward from last year's account. After payment of directors' and auditors' fees it is proposed to pay a dividend of 7 per cent, or \$1.75 per share on the paid up capital of the company, which will absorb \$18,900.00, leaving a balance of \$10,335.94 to be carried forward to new account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. A. Rodger, according to the articles, retires, but offers himself for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. H. Percy Smith, who offers himself for re-election.

A. RODGER,
Chairman.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

For the 12 months ending 31st December, 1906.

LIABILITIES.		\$
CAPITAL. \$450,000.00 viz:		
6,000 Old Shares of \$25 each.	\$150,000.00	
12,000 New Shares of 25 each.	300,000.00	
	\$450,000.00	
10,800 Shares issued and fully paid up	270,000.00	
Reserve Fund	64,124.00	
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation loan account (secured by mortgages).	116,335.82	
Amount received in advance on account of contracts in hand	40,900.00	

Sundry Creditors	17,460.47
Profit and loss account	30,385.94
	\$539,106.23
ASSETS.	
Value of land and buildings at Wanchai and North Point	300,750.86
Value of machinery, plant, launches and office furniture as per last report	\$51,123.14
Additions during the year	7,468.39
	\$58,591.53
Written off for depreciation	3,000.00
	55,591.53
Value of stock in trade as per valuer's certificate	84,787.63
Value of work in progress as per valuer's certificate	60,972.42
Cash on hand	366.52
The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation current account	\$5,372.55
Fixed deposit	12,000.00
Do. Interest	177.21
	17,549.74
The Chartered Bank of India, A. & C.	123.47
The National Bank of China Ltd.	393.08
Investments	600.00
Sundry Debtors	17,970.56
	\$539,106.23

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	\$	c.
To cost of labour, material and working expenses	8,148.45	
To salaries	13,567.00	
To crown rent and taxes	1,264.20	
To depreciation	3,000.00	
To balance, profit to be appropriated as follows:—		
Dividend of 7 per cent on 10,800 shares	\$18,900.00	
Director's fees	1,000.00	
Auditor's fee	150.00	
Balance to new account	10,335.94	
	30,385.94	
	\$129,099.60	
By balance of last year's account	8,915.84	
By gross earning	117,436.46	
By transfer fees	6.00	
By bonus from Insurance Co.	10.95	
By interest, dividend on investment, etc.	897.05	
By debt written off in 1904, recovered	1,833.30	
	\$29,099.60	

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Green Island Cement Company was held on Mar. 16th at the Company's offices. Mr. R. Shewan presided and there were present Sir Paul Chater and Mr. W. J. Gresson (directors) Messrs T. Hough, R. Hancock, W. L. Pattenden, F. E. Ellis and R. Henderson (secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the first resolution that the capital of the Company be increased to \$4,000,000 by the creation of 200,000 new shares of \$10 each.

The Hon. Mr. GRESSON seconded, and the resolution was approved.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the second resolution sanctioning the necessary alterations in the Articles of Association, and Sir PAUL CHATER seconded. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business gentlemen. I am obliged to you for your attendance.

HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-third ordinary general meeting to be held at the Office of the General Managers on Saturday, March 23rd, reads:—

Annexed we have the pleasure to lay before shareholders the annual statement of accounts made up to the 31st December 1906. The net profit, including the balance brought forward from last year amounts to \$108,212.16 which it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

To place to reserve fund	\$ 4,000.00
To pay a dividend of \$2.00 per share.	1 0,000.00
To carry forward to the credit of next year's account	4,212.16

The result is a little better than that of the previous year, but sales are still restricted by the high price of Hemp at Manila.

Consulting Committee.—Mr. D. E. Brown having resigned on leaving the Colony, Mr D. W. Craddock was invited to take his place.

In accordance with the Articles of Association Messrs. A. J. Raymond, H. P. White, D. W. Craddock and Dr. J. W. Noble retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O. D. Gordin, the latter having been asked to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. T. Arnold. Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O. D. Gordin are recommended for re-election.

SHEWAN TOMES & CO.
General Managers.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	\$	c.
Statement of accounts for the year 1906.		
Interest	681.40	
Auditors' fees	400.00	
Consulting committee's fee	4,000.00	
Amount written off as depreciation for 1906	13,380.00	
Balance	108,212.16	
	\$123,673.56	
	\$ 0.	
Balance brought forward from 1905	5,813.29	
Exchange	345.82	
Investment income	5,340.00	
Balance from working account	115,134.45	
	\$123,673.56	

BALANCE SHEET.

	\$	c.
Capital:—		
50,000 shares at \$10 fully paid up	500,000.00	
Reserve fund	61,000.00	
Sundry creditors	16,122.25	
Investment fluctuation account	7,233.01	
Balance of profit and loss account	108,212.16	
	\$692,367.41	
	\$ 0.	
Land, factory, machinery, &c., as per last statement	221,500.00	
Less depreciation	13,380.00	
	208,120.00	
Rope, hemp, &c. in factory, valued at	107,514.14	
Rope on consignment, valued at	175,382.00	
Fire insurance premia for 1907	1,289.73	
Sundry debtors	111,524.00	
Company's bankers	14,894.48	
Cash in hand	2,280.04	
Cash at factory	511.00	
	2,310.04	
Investment of reserve fund:—		
2,500 shares in the China Light and Power Company, Limited at \$10	25,000.00	
3,400 shares in China Provident Loan and Mortgage Co., Ltd. at \$94	35,150.00	
533 shares in the Green Island Cement Company, Ltd. at \$21	11,193.00	
	71,343.00	
	\$692,367.41	

HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN CO. LTD.

The report for presentation to shareholders at the Twentieth ordinary annual meeting, to be held at the City Hall on Wednesday, March 20th at 12.15 p.m., reads:—

The directors have now to submit to shareholders their report with a statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1906.

The profit on working was 47,693.17 as compared with \$390,753.10 in 1905, being an increase of \$16,940.07.

The balance at credit of profit and loss account, after paying interim dividend of 5 per cent, and including \$20,041.05 brought forward from last year, is \$258,207.91 which it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

Directors' and auditors' fees	\$ 10,500.00
Final dividend of 5 per cent	99,860.00
Transfer to depreciation and repairs account	135,000.00
Transfer to Insurance Fund	10,000.00
Carry forward to new account	3,047.91
	\$258,207.91

BUSINESS.

Excepting Bombay yarn, of which abnormal quantities accumulated, imports generally were restricted and business throughout the year was dull.

PROPERTY.

The praya was handed over by Government in April. The price fixed for such portions as the company may hereafter acquire is \$3 per foot including an instalment of 15 cents per foot for the whole area (to be paid when the exchange of land is settled). During the year 1,238 feet were thus acquired. The building on K.M.L. 4 referred to in last report is now occupied as offices. Nos. 6-7 godown and new workshops were completed.

WHARVES.

The new Ferry pier was completed in April. Guide piles, found necessary by reason of the strong tide, were in course of erection when the typhoon of 18th September swept away some three fourths of the whole pier.

LAUNCHES.

The Crane and Curlew were acquired. The Hongkong was lost in the typhoon and wrecked.

LIGHTERS.

Sixteen wooden lighters (each 100 tons) were contracted for before the typhoon.

The following were acquired immediately after the typhoon:—

2 Shanghai steel lighters	
2 Weihaiwei "	
2 Hongkong wooden,	Aggregating
2 Canton "	1000 tons
5 Moji "	

and the following contracted after the typhoon:—

37 wooden lighters, each 100 tons
6 Kumsing boats

MACHINERY AND PLANT.

The second-hand 5-ton steam crane, and a Diesel oil engine for the workshops, were acquired.

TYPHOON, 18TH SEPTEMBER 1906.

Praya.—The sea wall was destroyed for a distance of 250 feet (due to the *S. P. Hitchcock* pounding it); several coping stones were dislodged; throughout its length the pier perone was disturbed; and the concrete surface of the roadway broken up revealing numerous large cavities beneath.

Buildings.—Roofs were partially uplited at the eaves and ridges in all tiled godowns. The tiling at the eaves is being replaced by a stronger design with a view to prevent slipping. Doors and shutters were all more or less damaged and have been strengthened. Floors of the older godowns were flooded and will be raised as opportunities permit; meanwhile cargo is being re-stowed on higher dunnage. West Point Buildings suffered very slightly.

Wharves.—Nos. 1 and 2 wharves, and 5 small ones were almost annihilated, whilst No. 3 wharf, the sheers wharf, the new Ferry wharf and a small one were much damaged. No. 3 and sheers wharves have been repaired (the latter will be enlarged); No. 2 and the small wharves will be rebuilt. This will give 5 berths as against former 6. West Point wharf suffered partial destruction in the great typhoon and still further damage in a later one.

Launches.—out of 10 launches 3 were wrecked and salvaged. All others damaged.

Lighters.—Out of 65 boats 61 were wrecked (many full of cargo) and 29 salvaged. With 2 exceptions (smashed to pieces by the *s.s. Petrarch*), those lost were old boats of Chinese type.

Railways and Rolling Stock.—Some 2500 yards of track were lost, of which one-third has been salvaged.

Machinery &c.—Six steam cranes and the dredger barge were lost and salvaged. The hopper barge was totally wrecked and the steam hammer has not yet been found.

Summary.—The losses caused by the typhoon will approximate as follows:—

Total estimated Already expenditure. expended.

Miscellaneous expenditure on labour, gratuities, &c. (charged to Working a/c.) \$9,000.00 \$8,140.28

Cost of repairing assets which were partially destroyed:—

Praya.....	\$20,000.00	145.00
Buildings	25,000.00	10,248.64
Wharves	22,000.00	11,701.79
Railways and Rolling stock.		
Launches..	1,000.00	527.00
Lighters..	10,000.00	5,437.35
Machinery &c.....	98,000.00	97,652.48
	6,000.00	4,838.26
	\$82,000.00	
	\$91,000.00	138,690.81

Proportionate book value of assets which were totally destroyed:—

Wharves..... *\$90,000.00

Railways, &c. 9,500.00

Lighters	28,000.00
Machinery, &c. ..	3,500.00
	131,000.00

Total amount of loss caused by the typhoon

* The actual value was \$340,000, written down to \$90,000.

Further expenditure, the immediate result of the typhoon, will be as follows:—

Rebuilding No. 2 Wharf.....	\$142,000
Rebuilding New Ferry wharf ..	30,000
Rebuilding Old Ferry wharf ..	10,000
Rebuilding No. 5 wharf	8,500
Rebuilding Coal wharf	1,500
Rebuilding Yarn wharves (2) ..	5,000
Raising floors of godowns	50,000
	\$347,000.00

DIRECTORS.

Mr. E. Shellim resigned and his place was taken by Mr. D. M. Nissim whose appointment requires confirmation.

Messrs. E. Goetz and A. G. Wood retire in rotation, according to the Articles of Association, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The Directors record, with deep regret, the death of Mr. C. H. Thompson who, during the past four years, held a seat on their Board.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin have audited the accounts now presented and offer themselves for re-election.

J. J. GRESSON,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 6th March, 1907.

BALANCE SHEET.

31st December, 1906.

Dr.	LIABILITIES.
To capital 40,000 fully paid up shares at \$50	\$2,000,000
Less 136 shares not issued	6,800
	1,993,200.00
To estate of G. Sharp (deceased) mortgage ..	1,6951.00
To reserve fund	550,000.00
To insurance fund	30,000.00
To Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ..	1,000,100.17
To depreciation and repairs account ..	23,152.41
To unclaimed dividends	3,570.50
To accounts payable	100,171.18
To directors' and auditors' fees ..	10,500.00
To final dividend	99,660.00
To profit and loss account, balance ..	3,047.91
	\$4,366,413.55

Cr.	ASSETS.
By value of land and buildings at Kowloon as per last account	3,002,063.28
Since expended on new buildings	108,567.96
	3,170,631.24
By value of wharves at Kowloon as per last account ..	110,000.00
Since expended on new wharves	37,351.01
	147,351.03
By value of railways and rolling stock at Kowloon as per last account ..	60,000.00
Since expended on new rails, &c.	3,861.09
	63,860.09
By value of launches as per last account	25,000.00
Since expended on new launches ..	31,050.00
	57,050.00
By value of lighters as per last account	100,000.00
Since expended on new lighters	207,020.88
	307,020.88
By value of machinery and plant as per last account ..	90,000.00
Since expended on new machinery, &c. ..	15,723.19
	105,723.19
By value of sheer legs as per last account ..	3,000.00
By value of land and buildings at West Point as per last account ..	253,141.84
By sundry debtors	215,380.13
By Hongkong and Shanghai Bank (unclaimed dividends) ..	3,570.50
By cash on hand	632.13

By value of coal on hand	721.00
By value of timber, iron and stores on hand ..	28,379.48

\$4,366,413.55

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$ c.
To interest	70,356.31
To interim dividend	99,660.00
To balance appropriated as follows:—	
Directors' and auditors' fees \$10,500.00	
Final dividend	99,660.00
Transfer to depreciation and repairs account	135,000.00
Transfer to insurance fund ..	10,000.00
Amount carried to new account ..	3,047.91
	258,207.91

\$428,224.22

Cr.	\$ c.
By balance from last account	20,040.05
By nett earnings for 1906	407,693.17
By unclaimed dividends forfeited	284.00
By transfer fees	157.00
By premium on 1 share sold	50.00

\$428,224.22

DEPRECIATION AND REPAIRS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$ c.
To ordinary repairs, renewals and improvements during 1906	46,467.85
To typhoon repairs	130,550.58
To balance	23,152.49

\$200,180.86

Dr.	RESERVE FUND.	\$ c.
To balance		30,000.00

Cr.	\$ c.
By balance from last account	\$550,000.00

Dr.	INSURANCE FUND.	\$ c.
To balance		30,000.00

Cr.	\$ c.
By balance from last account	20,000.00
By transfer from profit and loss account ..	10,000.00

\$30,000.00

EDWARD OSBORNE,
Secretary.

THE UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the thirty-fourth ordinary meeting to be held at the Society's offices at noon on Saturday, April 13th, reads:—

The Board has now to lay before the shareholders a balance sheet containing a summary of the property and liabilities of the Society on the 31st December 1906 and a statement of accounts to the same date.

1905 Account.—After payment of the interim dividend of \$30 per share and the bonus of 20 per cent to contributors at the last annual meeting there remains a balance of \$835,290.64 as per annexed statement.

The Board recommends that this sum be appropriated as follows:—

A final dividend to shareholders of \$12 per share on 10,000 shares	\$120,000.00
An addition to the Sterling Reserve Fund of £30,000 at exchange 2.3 1/2 ..	264,827.59
To be carried forward to Underwriting Suspense Account to close the account for the year 1905	450,163.05
	\$835,290.64

1906 Account.—The balance of Working Account on the 31st December 1906 was \$2,082,490.31 as per annexed statement.

The Board recommends that an interim dividend of \$30 per share be paid to shareholders out of interest, absorbing \$372,000, and that a bonus of 20 per cent be paid to contributors, absorbing about \$250,000, and that the remainder be carried forward.

New Issue of 2,400 Shares.—All these new shares have now been issued. The shares in the China Traders' Insurance Company, Limited, acquired by the Society have been valued for the purpose of the balance sheet at \$90 per share and the profit accruing on this valuation has been treated as premium on the new shares issued in exchange for them. The new shares rank pari passu with the old shares of the Society for the final dividend on 1905 account as well as for the interim dividend on 1906 account, and the final dividend thus paid on these new shares will be charged against the premium on the new shares. After allowing for this final dividend the balance of the new shares amounts to \$1,230,648.14 which sum the Board has applied as follows:—

Transferred to Silver Reserve Fund	\$1,000,000.00
--	----------------

Transferred to investment fluctuation account ... 230,688.14

\$1,230,688.14

DIRECTORS.

Since the last general meeting Mr. H. W. Slade has resigned his seat on leaving the Colony, and Mr. G. Balloch of Messrs. Gilman & Co., has joined the Board.

In accordance with clause 86 of the Articles of Association Mr. G. H. Medhurst and Mr. A. G. Wood retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and A. R. Lowe retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

A. G. WOOD.

Chairman.

Hongkong, 15th March, 1907.

BALANCE SHEET.

On the 31st December, 1906.

Dr.	\$	c.
To Capital 12,400 Shares of \$250 each = \$3,100,000 upon which \$100 per share called and paid up, ...	1,240,000.00	
To Reserve Fund,—		
Silver ... \$3,000,000.00		
Sterling ... £40,000 = 353,103.45	3,353,103.45	
To Unclaimed Bonus and Dividend, ...	23,147.50	
To Exchange Fluctuation Account, ...	253,549.45	
To Investment Fluctuation Account, ...	202,857.58	
To Working Account 1905, Balance ...	835,290.64	
To Working Account 1906, Balance ...	2,082,490.31	
To Reinsurance Fund, ... £125,137.15.0	1,104,664.28	
To Underwriting Suspense, Account, ... £41,592.18.8	367,165.20	
To Sundry Creditors, ...	419,472.28	
To Bills Payable ...	54,885.10	
To Estimated liability under cash certificates issued in part payment for China Traders' shares, ...	529,788.00	
	\$10,466,413.79	

Cr.	\$	c.
By Cash on Current Account at Hongkong	93,593.03	
By Cash on Deposit with banks in Hongkong, Shanghai and Singapore ...	631,903.02	
By Amount invested in Mortgages, Debentures and other securities in Hongkong, Shanghai, Yokohama and Singapore ...	3,016,546.86	
By Amount invested in London, viz.—		
Deposited in banks ... £136,000.0.0		
Other investments ... 277,748.14.6		
	£413,748.14.6	3,652,402.54
By Amount invested in Melbourne, viz.—		
Deposited in Banks, ... £ 1000. 0. 0		
Other investments, ... 9,026. 0. 0		
	£10,026. 0. 0	88,505.38
By Amount at debit of Branches and Agencies, ...	636,120.88	
By Sundry Debtors, ...	227,025.89	
By Office Leases, ...	55,146.19	
By 22,913 shares in the China Traders' Insurance Company, Limited, at \$90 per share, ...	2,062,170.00	
	\$10,466,413.79	

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1905.

On 31st December, 1906.

	\$	c.
To Nett Premium, ...	4,221,383.56	
To Interest, ...	356,312.59	
To Exchange, ...	11,021.96	
	\$4,588,738.11	

	\$	c.
By Agency Commissions, ...	117,621.37	
By Head Office, Branches and Agency Charges, ...	462,200.18	
By Remuneration to Directors, Committees and Auditors, ...	28,954.40	
By Losses and Claims paid, ...	2,587,849.17	
	3,196,631.12	

	\$	c.
By Bonus of 20 per cent paid to Contributors, ...	256,816.35	
By Interim Dividend of \$30 per share, ...	300,000.00	
By Balance, ...	835,290.64	
	\$4,588,738.11	

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1906.

On 31st December, 1906.

	\$	c.
To Nett Premium, ...	3,411,650.77	
To Interest, ...	449,750.59	
	\$3,931,410.36	

	\$	c.
By Agency Commissions, ...	89,390.12	
By Head Office, Branches and Agency Charges, ...	386,598.63	

By Remuneration to Directors, Committees and Auditors, ...	26,964.67
By Losses and Claims paid, ...	1,325,273.88
By Furniture written off, ...	20,683.75
By Balance, ...	2,082,490.31
	\$3,931,410.36

Sterling Exchange taken at 2s. 3-3/16d.

CENTRAL STORES, LIMITED SHANGHAI.

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Central Stores, Ltd. was held at Shanghai on March 8th. Mr. G. I. Shekury (chairman).

After making full provision for depreciation, bad and doubtful debts &c, there is an available balance for distribution of \$19,978.50 out of which sum the director recommend the payment of dividend of \$1.80 per share on old shares, absorbing \$10,800 and to carry forward the balance. This result we hope will prove satisfactory to you, as the balance brought forward from the working account shows two per cent. better results than the previous year. There are two items in the report which call for explanation. The first is the loss on debentures. These the Company purchased as an investment at three per cent premium some years back, at a time when interest was low, and being in need of money sold last year at a discount when the condition of the money market was quite the reverse. The next item is the amount of \$6,178.50. This has been spent for developing the Yangtsepoo property; in filling in part of the land; planting over 3,000 trees and shrubs, and building a shed for the gardeners. A good part of the land is under cultivation with vegetables, and we trust soon to be able to supply the hotel with all the vegetables required, and we shall shortly proceed to make arrangements for the dairy farm. Palace Hotel—The promises made last year that the building would be handed to us by about October last have not been realized, and although the Board used every effort to hurry on the work, success did not attend their efforts, the contractor taking his own time over the matter. He will, however, have to indemnify us for the delay, but this of course is a matter which cannot be settled before the completion of the work. At the same time, I may state that we have approached the guarantor of the contractor about the delay, and I would here quote part of a letter received by the architects on October 9th from his solicitors:—"Our client wishes us to assure you, that since he has guaranteed the contractor, he will do all in his power to get the contractor to complete the works at an early date, and that you may look to our client for any delay &c, caused by the contractor." However, the building is now nearly ready, there being only the internal work on the lower flat to be finished. The upper stories are now ready and will very soon be fully occupied, in fact, eighteen rooms are already taken possession of. We have been very unfortunate in having had a fire at the Annexe, which building was completely destroyed, and consequently upset our business and calculations for the time being. However, we have now got over the difficulty and although the furniture and stock were insured, still, we suffered a small loss in losing part of our business for the time being. The shops of the Palace and part of the Hotel having been already occupied the Board have decided that according to the terms on which the new capital was issued, the first half will bear dividend from the beginning of this year, *pari passu* with the old shares.

A dividend of 1.8 per share on the old shares, making 12 per cent for the year ending December 1906, was declared and paid. Proposals for increasing the capital were adjourned.

SOY CHEE COTTON SPINNING CO., LD.

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd. was held at the offices of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co., Shanghai, on March 5th. Mr. M. Mittag (chairman), said:—"The Report of our company for the working year 1906 has been in your possession for some time, and, with your kind permission, I will follow

the usual procedure and take the accounts as read. You may indeed congratulate yourselves on the excellent result obtained. The working of the mill has been satisfactory all the year round. The mill has worked steadily with no interruption except the usual holidays. As has been our policy during former years, we have again restricted our production to day work only, as we know from former experience that night work is both costly and not so profitable as day work. We have had no labour troubles during the year under review, and the internal departments of the mill, including the engine room department, have worked well. The yarn market during the year has been satisfactory on the whole. There was a great demand for the locally made article during the first part of the year, followed by a lull during the latter half accentuating itself more since December, so that we carry at present a stock of some 4,500 bales which, however, is all sold. The outlook for the future is not bad, although the margin between prices of cotton and yarn has been somewhat reduced. There may, of course, be lean years for us in store, but on the whole the stay of the industry has been assured. The supply of cotton during last year has been ample and of satisfactory quality, and, apart from our little troubles with the dealers about the vexed watering question, there has been no ground for complaint. The total net profit of our mill, including the amount brought forward from 1905, shows a sum of Tls. 232,021.42, out of which it is proposed to pay a dividend of ten per cent on our share capital, absorbing Tls. 100,000. The usual depreciations, etc., have been provided for, as enumerated in the Report in your hands, and an amount of Tls. 50,663.40 will be carried forward to 1907 account. As regards the various items in the accounts, there is little to be said indeed. Our property account, under the heading Assets, shows an increase of Tls. 5,487.68, representing the purchase-money for two small strips of land on the North side of the Yangtsepoo Road, opposite our mill building and adjoining our other property there. We have acquired this land to round off some small strips bought previously. The building account shows an increase of Tls. 8,506 representing mainly the balance of the cost of our new manager's residence. The house has been completed during last year and is now occupied by our mill manager. The whole of our machinery is in perfect working order owing to the constant care bestowed on it.

There being no question the following resolutions were put and carried unanimously:—

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Ho Hsien-chuen: That the report and accounts as presented be passed.

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Woo Saw-chin: That a dividend of Tls 80 per share be paid to shareholders.

Proposed by Mr. Lemke, seconded by Mr. Wo Saw-chin: That Messrs. A. Zickermann and A. Hostler be re-elected directors of the company.

Proposed by Mr. Hostler, seconded by Mr. Zickermann: That Mr. E. Gerecke be re-elected auditor of the company for the current year.

THE PEAK TRAMWAY.

Saturday's *Government Gazette* contains the official announcement, dated 11th March, that the Governor-in-Council has under section 45 of the Tramways Ordinance, 1883 (Ordinance No. 2 of 1883), approved the absolute assignment by the Hongkong High Level Tramways Company, Limited (in liquidation), of the whole of their undertaking (being Tramway No. 6 described in the said Ordinance) to the Peak Tramways Company, Limited.

SHANGHAI WHARF'S DIVIDEND.

Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co., General Agents of the Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company, inform us that it has been decided to pay a dividend of Tls. 10 per Share, plus Tls. 100,000 to Repairs a/c Tls. 75,000 to Equalization Fund and carry forward Tls 23,000.

This final dividend makes the total return per share for 1906 Tls. 18.

THE SHANGHAI MURDER.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Shanghai, March 11th said: Fourteen Chinese robbers, all armed with modern revolvers &c., attacked some native constables in the Hongkew district early this morning. A foreign constable named Morrow heard the noise and on going to their assistance was shot dead. All the ruffians escaped.

Shanghai, March 12th.

At the inquest held on Constable Morrow, who was shot by Chinese bandits, a verdict of murder against persons unknown was returned.

The coroner (Mr. J. C. E. Douglas) passed some strong strictures on the Municipal Council for starving the Police Department. He asserted that the present force was totally inadequate, condemned the proposal to strengthen the Indian branch, and declared that a reinforcement of the foreign personnel was the only solution. He paid a high tribute to the excellence of the work now being done in circumstances of difficulty and danger.

The funeral to-day was attended by practically all the members of the Police, by representatives of the British Consulate and Municipal Council, and by the City and Mixed Court Magistrates.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Shanghai, March 14th, said:—

Sir Pelham Warren has sent a strongly worded protestation to the Taotai with regard to the slackness of the Native City Authorities in punishing desperadoes committed thither from the Mixed Court. He asserts that the Chinese neglect to deal properly with such prisoners amounts to direct encouragement of serious crime within the Settlement. Referring to the murder of Constable Morrow, he demands the strongest possible assistance to arrest the men who did the shooting.

The Municipal Council has ordered the publication of a reply to the strictures made by Mr. J. C. E. Douglas when sitting as coroner. The rejoinder reminds the public that the British Consulate was privy to and assisted in the negotiations for the augmentation of the Indian section of the Police, and that as regards the European branch of the Force its strength has been doubled since 1901.

SENSATION AT SHANGHAI.

HUSBAND SHOT BY HIS WIFE.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Shanghai, March 15th, said:—

Mrs. "Dick" Daly entered her husband's room at the Hotel Metropole this morning, locked the door, called him names, and fired five shots at him with a revolver from a distance of ten yards. All the shots missed save the last, which grazed Daly's leg. The woman was subsequently arrested. She is supposed to be crazy, though she recently quarrelled with her husband.

["Dick" Daly, it may be remembered by many in Hongkong, was formerly the proprietor of the Grill Rooms in Des Vœux Road].

SINGAPORE FRUIT TRADE.

CHINESE PACKERS OPPOSE COMBINE.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Singapore, March 15th said:—

At a meeting which lasted the greater part of yesterday, the Chinese packers decided against the proposal by a European export firm that a Pineapple Trust be formed. Instead, they agreed to meet once a week and fix their own prices.

H. E. Viceroy Yuan is in communication with the Ministry of Finance concerning the extension of the Peking-Kalgan railway line to the Mongolian Capital and suggests that the extension might be completed before the end of 1908. Such an undertaking would, undoubtedly, enhance the trade of Mongolia to a great extent. His Excellency proposes to utilize the profits of the railways of North China for this purpose and there appears every probability of the enterprise being undertaken, says the Peking correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News*.

BLACKBALLED.

A case of considerable interest to Club men was decided at the Norwegian Consular Court, Shanghai, on March 2th. One Norwegian charged another with slandering him. It appeared that the complainant was up for election to the Shanghai Club, and that the defendant made certain statements to his second and to the Club Secretary. These statements, the Consul-General decided, were not slander. He said:—It is the opinion of this Court that, when a person is put up for election by ballot and his name is exhibited in a Club for a certain period before ballot takes place, he must suffer himself to be the object of investigation, and, that the notice about his proposal for membership is exhibited in order to afford members of the Club an opportunity of giving to those who either have proposed and seconded a candidate or who are on the balloting committee what information they may have of the candidate, but such information must be considered confidential and cannot form the basis of an action. The Court comes to the conclusion that the defendant in this case has not made his statements in public, but they were made in confidence, and that he had a perfect right to answer questions put to him by a member of the balloting committee, and that, therefore, defendant must be acquitted.

KOREAN CUSTOMS REORGANIZATION.

The Japanese authorities claim that upon the installation of Japanese Customs Commissioners in Chemulpo, Fusan, Gensan (Gonsan) and Chinnampo. Customs affairs, hitherto conducted in an old-fashioned irregular manner, have been lately reduced to order. The chief points of improvement in the latter half of the year 1906 are the opening of Customs houses, in case of necessity, even on Sundays and holidays, as from September 1st; the enactment of the discipline and uniform regulations for Customs officials as from October; the clearer division of Customs districts from November, for the purpose of unifying the imposition, creating respective sectional domains, improving the procedure, etc. Simultaneously, the Customs works department was established in order to undertake various construction works, the first period of which ends with the 1906-11 fiscal year. The exchequer of the general Customs inspectorate has been hitherto distinctly separated from the Korean Government, but from the 11th year of Koangum (1907) both the revenue and expenditure are to be included in the general Budget. Other steps taken by the Japanese Customs management include the establishment of bonded warehouses without the south Great Gate of Seoul and the improved composition of the Customs in Chemulpo, Fusan, Gensan, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Viceroy Tuan Fang has received instructions from Peking not to put into force the new regulations of the Shanghai Mixed Court before the question of the women's prison has been settled, which gave cause to the troubles in December 1905 and which still has not been arranged.

His Excellency Sir Chentung Liang Cheng, Chinese Minister at Washington, has written to the Waiwupu dwelling upon the importance of China being represented at the coming celebrations at Jamestown, Virginia, U.S.A., by one or two cruisers and an official of high rank. Japan has already sent ships.

A coolie named Lo Ching died at Mongkok on Mar. 12th under circumstances which led to four men being charged on March 13th with manslaughter. Apparently several coolies had a dispute and deceased and Un Yeung belaboured each other with bamboos. Then, it is said, a lukong interfered. Deceased ran along Station Street and dropped dead. His rival and other two coolies were arrested and the lukong was also charged. Mr. Hazeland remanded all pending inquiries.

The following amusing item appears in the *Japan Advertiser*:—As the coolies were slowly turning over the odds and ends, which were found in the ruins of the fire on Jisomaka, one of the oldest residents of Yokohama, pointing to the small tumbledown store which now marks the limit of the fire, said: "Thirty-five years ago, that house stood alone on this hill and was known among foreigners as being able to furnish 'kobe' and 'birru'; this hill was thereby called 'Coffee House Hill.' No 'rikishas' toiled up and down then, and five sen would buy more show than a dollar obtains nowadays. English words were unknown then. Nowadays even the Japanese store keepers not only speak English fluently, but write it as well. Look at that sign for example." A small wooden board, appearing painfully new, amidst all the blackened and charred wood, stated as follows:—*'Tanabe Quitted.'*

Sergeant Sullivan placed the master of the pawnbroking establishment at 97 Queen's Road West before Mr. Hazeland at the Police Court on March 8th for neglecting to seize and detain a man who had pawned two clocks. Chief Detective-Inspector Hanson pointed out to his Worship that the man who pawned the goods was very shabbily dressed, therefore he considered the defendant should have used a little common sense and not accepted the articles. For lacking this commodity his Worship ordered the pawnbroker to pay a fine of \$25.

The Nagasaki Hotel report—states the *Nagasaki Press*—was as follows:—"The gross profit on working account amount to Y.13,300.85, which after deducting all charges leaves a net profit of Y8,877, which the directors propose to deal with as follows:—To write off building, Y3,015.40; electric light plant, Y1,792.13; furniture, Y1,221.21; carry forward to next account, Y2,848.26. The Chairman explained that the improvement in the steamship service to Vladivostok had greatly reduced their business. Whereas in former days it was necessary that passengers to that port should wait at Nagasaki from seven to fourteen days for a steamer, vessels now came in the morning and left in the afternoon.

Collins, the man who was imprisoned in Japan as a Russian spy, and recently arrested in Tientsin, confesses to have been smuggling explosives at the instance of a certain high official in Peking in connexion with the "revolutionaries" crusade. It is reported from Tientsin that the two Anarchists, Tang and Feng, who were arrested the other day upon the evidence of the foreigner Collins have confessed that they intended to blow up Li Lien-ying, the head eunuch of the Imperial Palace, and other prominent reactionaries, who had been traitorous advisers to the Empress Dowager to the detriment of the nation and empire. Two other alleged anti-monarchists, recently arrested in Peking, have further confessed that there are at least two thousand of their comrades in Tientsin, Peking and other towns in the vicinity of the Capital, vowed to the destruction of all reactionaries who are working the ruin of the Empire.

When a "commercial port" was opened in 1905 outside the city of Ch'angteh, in Hunan province, two Chinese, one a native of Hupeh and the other a Ningpo man named Wang Sung-nien, privately bought up considerable government land in the vicinity of the commercial Port with the intention of reselling it to foreigners who shall go there to do business. This was discovered by the authorities of Ch'angteh with the result that the native of Hupeh, who had a petty civil rank, was cashiered and the Ningpo man ordered to give up the title deeds obtained by him on false pretences. The latter, however, absconded with his deeds and a warrant was accordingly issued for his arrest. Eighteen months passed and still Wang Sung-nien managed to keep at large—apparently at Hankow—when suddenly learning of the arrival at Hankow of the man's father the other day, the old man was arrested by order of the Hankow Taotai and given to understand that he would have to remain under confinement until his son came to take his place. The result was that Wang Sung-nien soon came forward, obtained the release of his unlucky parent and is by this time very likely lying in the prison of the Ch'angteh magistrate's yamen awaiting trial and punishment.

We learn from a Japanese contemporary that the demand for German sugar has largely increased in Japan, and importations are increasing. Alarmed at this, the Japan Sugar Refining Company has begun to manufacture sugar of the same quality for the purpose of checking the importation of the German product, and recently sold "S. L. quality" at ¥15.05 per 100 kin, 50 or 60 sen cheaper than the German sugar. This underselling has greatly reduced the number of Japanese merchants giving contracts for importation of German sugar, and the Japanese Sugar Refining Company is expected to attain its object in stopping the import of the German article.

Acting under instructions of the mortgage, Mr. G. P. Lammert on March 11th offered for sale by public auction: (1) All that piece or parcel of ground situate at Kowloon Tong in the New Territory and registered in the Land Court as Lot Number Four hundred and two of Survey District No. 4. Area 2.35 acres. Annual Crown Rent \$7.05; and (2) All that piece or parcel of ground situate at Kowloon Tong and registered in the Land Court as Lot Number Four hundred and thirteen of Survey District No. 4. Area 5.19 acres. Annual Crown Rent \$14.07. Agricultural Crown leases have been granted in respect of both lots, the first of which was sold to Mr. J. Bato for \$1,550 while Mr. C. D. da Roza was declared purchaser of the second at the figure of \$2,800. Messrs. Goldring and Barlow were the solicitors for the mortgagee.

On March 3rd, at the Pootung works of the Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd., a new twin-screw steamer (*Kian*) which has been built to the order of the China Navigation Co., Ltd., for their Poyang Lake service, was successfully launched. An attempt was made the day before, but unfortunately the tallow on the ways was frozen and after slipping down eight feet the *Kian* came to a stop and could not be moved, in spite of the fact that an attempt was made by the tug boat *Vulcan* to tow her into the water. The *Kian* is a steel twin-screw steamer, 220 feet in length between perpendiculars by 40 feet beam and 10 feet moulded depth. She has been built to designs supplied by the owners and has the minimum of steels scantlings, consistent with strength and durability, for ensuring a vessel of the least possible draught. She is fitted with two sets of direct-acting, triple-expansion, surface-condensing engines which are expected to develop about 650 indicated horse-power. Steam will be supplied by a cylindrical return-tube boiler, constructed for a working pressure of 175 lbs. per square inch. The passenger accommodation is commodious and complete in every way and the appointments and furnishings compare favourably with those of any of the modern river steamers.

COMMERCIAL.

The Yokohama Prices Current and Market Report, published by the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade and dated Yokohama, February 28th, 1907, has the following:—

IMPORTS.

Yarns.—No business to report. Shirtings.—Business has not yet been resumed. Fancy Cottons and Woollens.—We do not hear of much fresh business passing, though the tone of the market is healthy. Metals.—The market could hardly be more inactive. The marked quietness which prevailed during the first half of the month was explained as induced in large measure by the approach of the old calendar new year, but since its celebration no indications have been apparent of a renewal of interest. Doubtless there is an intimate connection between this condition and the severe slump in the share market. Kerosene.—Market steady. Sugar.—The market is in a somewhat unsettled condition owing to the question of the refund of the import duty on Raw Sugar still undecided in the Diet, but the tendency is upward. There were no sales made

at the Tokyo Refinery's auction held on the 15th inst., the offers made not having been accepted. Indigo.—(Natural).—There is nothing new to report.

GENERAL EXPORTS.

Copper.—Though the troubles in the Ashiwa mine have been settled at last, sellers are not yet ready to negotiate about new business. Fish Oil.—Stocks are entirely exhausted, and nothing is doing for forward delivery owing to the high prices asked by sellers.

OPIUM

HONGKONG, March 16th.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$850	to	—	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$900	to	—	do.
Malwa Older	\$930	to	—	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$970	to	—	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$600	to	—	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$690	to	—	do.
Patna New	\$552	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old	.....	to	—	do.
Benares New	\$937	to	—	do.
Benares Old	.....	to	—	do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai 7th March, 1907, states:—With the departure of the six direct steamers to Tientsin on the 1st and 2nd inst. all life and interest seems to have disappeared, and the market is in a state of utter stagnation. There is not the slightest demand for fresh supplies either from stock, or to arrive, and even for Manchester goods bought last Spring and which are just arriving barely covering cost can be obtained. Clearances of these makes, however, and especially fancies, are fairly satisfactory, but with American makes it is otherwise, and it is said the dealers are getting nervous on account of the unexpected non-clearances of goods against which loans are shortly falling due. So far as the sources of supply go nothing could be more favourable than the present conditions, but they do not help the situation at all. The knowledge that the goods are overstocked here is widespread and the certainty that they must be quitte sooner or later causes operators in the country to refrain from buying now in the hope of prices coming down. The Auction prices are sufficient evidence that there must be some demand, and a pretty brisk one at that, or else the dealers here are keeping prices up to suit their own ends. The position is peculiar and importers are kept entirely in the dark. The situation in the immediate neighbourhood is certainly not conducive to a flourishing trade. The distress caused by the famine is at its height and the high price of rice is largely responsible for the stagnation in trade. In the North there are constant rumours of impending troubles, and the country generally is seething with an insurrectionary spirit which must impair credit and shake all business confidence. There is no news as yet concerning the arrival of the steamers in Tientsin, but in the meantime the market is said to have slumped to a considerable extent and clearances were very slow. It is reported that there are fully 100,000 bales American goods here in the hands of the natives bought and paid for that market, but operators there are keeping them out until the direct importations have been dealt with. The news from Newchwang is not at all satisfactory, and shipping firms here state there are actually not more than 2,000 packages Piece Goods for which space has been applied for that Port. Two steamers have loaded and been despatched for Corea during the interval, taking in all about 1,000 packages Piece Goods, and this in face of the reports that the markets there are depressed. The River trade and Ningpo are not brisk, but the improvement in the Auction prices to-day may possibly be taken as a revival in those markets. The market in Manchester keeps very strong, above the ideas of operators here, at the same time they think it advisable not to miss the opportunity of securing cloth to keep up old shops, when it is offered with the assurance that no more will be procurable for months ahead and at greatly enhanced prices. A few of these instances have taken place during the interval, principally we believe in 8-4-lbs. Shirtings. Cotton has continued strong and advancing until just at the close, when a slight reaction is reported from Liverpool, to-day's quotations for "spot" Mid-

American coming 6.18d. a drop of four points from yesterday, while this month's futures are 5.79d. A further advance has taken place in Egyptian to 11.6875d. Last month's export of Plain Cottons amounted to 41,000,000 yards against 44,000,000 yards the same month last year, so there is not much off in shipments from the old country as yet. The Yarn shipments were 2,200 bales. Communication telegraphically between this and New York is being cut very fine as regards the market for domestics, so it may be presumed, as nothing is offering, manufacturers still abstain from making cloth suitable for these parts. The unfortunate wreck of the Great Northern Railway's fine new liner *Dakota* off the entrance to Tokio Bay will not affect this market, as she was only carrying some 20 tons of Piece Goods. The latest quotation for cotton received from New York is 9.95 cents July option. The Yarn market is equally as quiet as that for Piece Goods, the only business doing being the filling of a few small orders from the River Ports, for both Indian and Japanese spinnings, the latter, apparently, enjoying the cream of the demand. Local Spinings are very quiet, though reamers are keeping steady. Cotton is quiet but steady.

Messrs. Ilbert & Co.'s Piece Goods Report is as follows:—The market is quiet throughout, but clearances have shown considerable improvement during the interval. The first steamers finally cleared for Tientsin with the following cargo:—4,500 Bales American Drills and Sheetings, 2,500 Bales Bombay Yarn, 3,000 Bales English Greys and Fancy Goods, 10,000 Packages. There is now a temporary lull on the part of the Northern buyers until reports as to the reception of these first shipments are received. The Yangtze River trade is showing steady revival, and English 10-lb. Shirtings, which have so long been a drag on the market, are now strengthening up, their values having sunk to a proportionately lower level than most staples owing to accumulated stocks. The Manchurian markets are expected to revive with the opening of traffic and the final evacuation of the Japanese and Russian troops that has to be completed by 15th April next in accordance with the terms of the Portsmouth Convention, and in spite of the very bad financial year which Newchwang and Mukden traders and Native banks have had, there must by now be a growing demand from actual consumers owing to the very limited supplies which have found their way into that part of the country for the best part of the past two years. Home markets continue as reported last week, manufacturer's prices and deliveries being daily more difficult to connect with indent offers from this end.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 18th March.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN.—Owing to pressed sales prices have further receded about \$1 per bale for all counts, resulting in a small business. Quotations are: No. 10s at \$71 to \$94; No. 16s at \$96 to \$124; and No. 20s at \$97 to \$140. Arrivals 5,000 bales; Sales 4,000 bales; Shipments 4,000 bales; Bargains 54,000 bales. Unsold stock 63,000 bales.

Bombay—Nos 10 to 20, ... \$80.00 to \$120.00
English—Nos 16 to 24, ... 140.00 to 145.00
... 22 to 24, ... 140.00 to 160.00
... 28 to 32, ... 155.00 to 160.00
... 38 to 42, ... 165.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.—Market flat. Nothing doing

per piece

Grey Shirtings—7 lbs	\$2.40	to	\$2.50
8 1/2 lbs	.....	3.00	to 3.70
9 to 10 lbs	.....	4.00	to 4.80
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd	.....	2.70	to 2.80
58 to 60 ..	.....	3.00	to 3.20
64 to 66 ..	.....	3.25	to 3.80
Fine	.....	5.50	to 7.60
Book-folds	.....	5.00	to 7.75
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	.....	0.60	to 1.50
T-Cloths—6lbs. 32 in. (Ord'y)	.....	2.00	to 2.20
7lbs. 32 ..	.....	2.25	to 2.75
6lbs. 32 .. (Mexs)	.....	2.20	to 2.35
7lbs. 32 ..	.....	2.40	to 3.05
8 to 8 1/2 oz., 36 in.	.....	3.00	to 3.70
Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/2	.....	4.50	to 7.25
to 14 lbs.	.....		

FANCY COTTON—Small sales. Market dull.

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	per piece	\$1.80 to \$3.65
Brocades—Dyed	per yard	— to —
Chintzes—Assorted	00.8 to 0.11	
Velvets—Black, 22 in.,	0.22 to 0.42	
Velveteens—18 in.,	0.19 to 0.22	
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	per doz.	\$0.45 to \$5.00
WOOLLENS—Small sales. Market dull.	per yard	
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	\$0.68 to \$0.95	
German,	— to —	
Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths,	1.75 to 3.00	
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs...	per piece	\$6.35 to \$9.50
Assorted	6.40 to 9.65	
Camlets—Assorted	20.50 to 30.00	
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches }	13.00 to 19.50	
Assorted		
Blankets—7 to 11 lbs.	per lb.	\$0.57 to \$0.72
METALS—	per picul	
Iron—Nail Rod	\$4.25	
Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.)...	4.25	
Swedish Bar	4.30	
Small Round Rod	4.80	
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	5.60	
Wire, 16/25 oz.	9.50	
Wire Rope, Old	3.00	
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	11.40	
Australian	11.40	
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/28 oz.	44.00	
Vivian's, 16/32 oz.,	44.00	
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	44.00	
Tin,	99.50	
Tin-Plates,	per box	\$7.10
STEEL, ½ to 1,	per picul	6.70
Quicksilver,	per box	\$110.00
Window Glass,	per box	\$3.75

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 6th March, 1907.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

Cowhides, Best Selected	Per picul	Tls. 37.75
Do. Seconds		33.75
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected		22.50
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour ..		68.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each		7.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or		
Poochi		10.50
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu ..		10.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen		11.00
Jute		5.60
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow		10.40
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow		
and/or Macheng		10.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu		10.00
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu		14.00
Animal Tallow		10.50
Gallnuts, usual shape		15.40
Gallnuts, plum do.		17.00
Tobacco, Tingchow		6.50
Tobacco, Wongkong		10.00
Turneric		5.80
Sesamum Seed		11.00
Sesamum Seed Oil		8.70
Wood Oil		
Tea Oil		

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 4th March, 1907, states:—Gallnuts.—No transactions have been reported, and the market remains unchanged. On account of the small stocks Chinese dealers are not inclined to give way in prices to meet home orders. Cowhides.—Chinese continue asking exceedingly high prices, which make business with home impossible at present. The market remains firm. Tobacco.—There are no stocks suitable for export. Feathers.—Demand continues and prices are firmer for all descriptions. Cotton.—A few transactions have been made at full prices, and the market remains firm on account of small supplies. Tallow.—White Vegetable.—A good demand from home continues, but stocks are small. Little business done.

Kiyue (Green).—Prices asked check business. Animal.—No stocks. Strawbraid.—There is a steady demand for Loyeh White and Tuscan, and prices remain unchanged. Yangshen, Finkiu and Shingkee white are also asked for, but supplies are wanting. Split remains firm except extreme coarse ends, which are offered at lower prices. Goatskin Rugs.—Market is almost bare of stocks. Wool.—Sheep's.—A large business has been done, and the market is now quiet, as stocks are small, and prices higher. Camels.—There is a good demand without any change in prices. Wood Oil.—Prices asked by the Chinese dealers are somewhat higher and make business impossible at present. Antimony.—Stocks are small, and prices are unchanged.

Per s.s. *Preussen*, sailed on 27th February, 1907. For Genoa:—135 bales raw silk. For Gibraltar:—3 cases cigars. For Antwerp:—12 bales leaf tobacco, 5 cases human hair. For Amsterdam:—1 case cigars. For Bremen:—40 bales feathers. For Hamburg:—50 cases cassia buds, 13 bales feathers, 12 cases blackwoodware, 12 cases human hair, 2 cases silk. For London:—4 cases cigars. For Copenhagen:—212 bales feathers. For Christiania:—3 cases curios.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 13th March, 1907.

Apricot	\$9 to 10½
Borax	16 .. 18
Cassia	15½ .. 20
Cloves	18 .. 38
Camphor	160 .. —
Cow Bezoar	110 .. 130
Fennel Seed	8 .. —
Galangal	2 .. 5.25
Grapes	11 .. —
Kismis	10 .. 12½
Glue	26 .. —
Olibanum	4 .. 17
Oil Sandalwood	240 .. 350
„ Rosa	50 .. 150
„ Cassia	240 .. —
Raisins	8 .. —
Senna Leaves	2½ .. 7
Sandalwood	26 .. 27
Saltpetre	9½ .. 10

EXCHANGE

MONDAY, Mar. 18th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/2
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/2½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	274½
Credits 4 months' sight	278
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	292½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	52½
Credits, 60 days' sight	53½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	160½
Bank, on demand	161½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	160½
Bank on demand	161½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	106
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	106
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	2½ p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	130½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	3½ p.c. m.p.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	3½ p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	67
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$9.20p
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$48.50
BAR SILVER, per oz	31½

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 15th March, 1907.—A fair business has been transacted during the week, but rates have not ruled strong. The inclination to weakness reported in our last continues to be apparent in most stocks, the market being affected to some extent by the unsettled state of the European and American stock markets and the tightness of money at these centres. In the absence however of anxious sellers rates close fairly steady, and in some few cases even show an upward tendency.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have changed hands in small lots at \$895 and \$890, the market closing with an unsatisfied small demand at the latter rate. London has declined to £103 per latest Renter's and private advices. Nationals continue a dead letter on the market.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have improved to \$835 with buyers and no sales to report. It is announced that the Society will pay a dividend of \$42 per share on account of the year ended 31st December, 1906. Cantons have changed hands at \$295, closing with further sellers at that rate. China Traders are wanted at \$90, but there are no shares on the market. Yangtses have improved to \$160 with buyers in the north. North Chinas have found further buyers at \$80, closing steady at that rate.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Both Hongkongs and Chinas have ruled neglected, the former with small sales and sellers at \$342½, and the latter with sellers at \$90.

SHIPPING.—Sales of Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been made at \$29½, the market closing with sellers at \$30. Indos continue neglected at the nominal rate of \$83, Shanghai quoting Tls. 60 sellers. China Manilas have declined to \$18 ex the dividend of \$1 paid on the 13th instant. Douglasses have declined to \$35 without sales. Shells, after a fall to 40s. with small sales at that rate and later at 4½s. and 41/8, close in demand at 42/6 without bringing any shares on the market. Star Ferries remain without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have further declined to \$118, with small sales at that rate and at \$120 for June, the market closing with cash sellers at \$119. Luxons unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Rauba were in a small demand in the early part of the week at \$8.15 to \$8½, but the rate failed to be maintained and at time of closing shares are obtainable at \$8½. Charbonages unchanged and without business.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have further declined to \$130 with small sales, closing with probable buyers at that rate. Kowloon Wharves continue dull at \$93, and without any business to report. Shanghai Docks show a further drop to Tls. 105 with sellers, both locally and in Shanghai. Hongkew Wharves have ruled firmer in Shanghai and sales have been made at from Tls. 231 to Tls. 234 ex new issue; the latest advices from Shanghai quote the market quiet, with nothing doing at \$244 cum new issue.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue steady to strong with small sales and further buyers at \$107. Kowloon Lands are wanted at \$37½. Humphreys have changed hands at \$11.20 and \$11½, closing with sellers at the latter rate. West Point and Hotels continue neglected with sellers at quotations.

COTTON MILLS.—The latest quotations from Shanghai give Ewea at 74, Internationals at 68, and Leou Kung Mows at 105. Hongkongs have been placed locally at 12.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have been placed at \$9, and more are wanted at the rate. Sales of Green Islands are reported at \$1½ and \$20, but at time of closing there are no sellers under the latter rate. Electric have been placed at \$15.90. Ropes at \$21 & \$22, Steam Waterboats at \$6, the last closing with buyers at a little better rate. Watsons have been sold at \$12.15 and 12½, closing steady at the latter rate. Watkins, after small sales at \$7½, are

enquired for at \$3. China Light and Powers have declined to \$9½. This last named Company advertises an issue of \$500,000 debentures at 9½ (for \$100) bearing interest at the rate of 6 per cent. and the issue of 50,000 new shares at \$1 to the holders of the debentures, the new shares being entitled to half of the net profits of the Company as dividend, and to half of the assets, in the event of the Company being wound up.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$120
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	\$895, sellers London, £103
National B. of China		
A. Shares	28	\$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7, sellers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$91, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$91, sellers
China Provident	\$10	19, sales & buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.	Tls. 50	Tls. 74
Hongkong	\$10	\$12, sales
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 68
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 105
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 370
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$164, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$98, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$130, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$61	\$12
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 105, sellers
S'hai & H. Wharf	100	Tls. 233 Tls. 223
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$20, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$20, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$16
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$215, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$118, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$240
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$21, buyers
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$6, sales & buyers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$295, sales & sel.
China Fire	\$20	\$90, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$90, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$342, sales & sel.
North China	25	Tls. 80
Union	\$100	\$835, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$160, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$107, buyers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$11.25, seller
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$37, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 101
West Point Building	Tls. 25	Tls. 64
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$450, nominal
Raubnages	18/10	\$8.25, sellers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$118, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$21, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$18, x.d., sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$35, sellers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$30, sellers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$83, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	21	\$26
Star Ferry	\$10	\$30
Do. New	\$5	\$20, sellers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$25
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$5½, buyers
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$30, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$3½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12½, sales
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150

VERNON & SMYTH Brokers

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending March 7th, 1907, states:—Business has been very quiet during the past week; all the principal stocks are easier, and an improvement has to be recorded in Sumatras, of which there are now buyers at Tls. 112. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks.—There are local buyers of small lots at \$900. Hongkong quotes \$895 buyers. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 3/0½. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Business is reported in Indos at Tls. 61 for March, and shares are offering at this rate. Shanghai Tugs. Ordinary shares have been placed at Tls. 51½. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. Business was reported during the week at Tls. 236½ for the old shares, and Tls. 226 for the new shares, but the market closed with old shares on offer at Tls. 233 and new shares at Tls. 223. Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. Ltd. shares have been dealt in at Tls. 108 and Tls. 107 for March, closing steady at the latter rate. Sugars.—No business reported. Mining. No business reported. Lands.—Shanghai Lands. Old shares have changed hands at Tls. 102, and the market is steady at this rate. New shares are on offer at Tls. 64. Industrial.—There has been a fair market in Ewos, closing with buyers at Tls. 73 March and Tls. 75 June. Shanghai Gas Shares ex div. were placed at Tls. 110½, but shares are offering at lower rates. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats are quoted at Tls. 264, Tls. 26½ cash; Tls. 266½, Tls. 267½ March and Tls. 271½ June; the market is easier at the close and March shares are obtainable at Tls. 262½. Sumatras are in strong demand, business having been done at Tls. 110, and higher prices could be obtained for shares. Miscellaneous.—China Flours changed hands at Tls. 57½ and there are now buyers at Tls. 55 for cash and Tls. 57½ July. Telephones have been done and are wanted at Tls. 61½. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz. Shares are quoted at \$23. Weeks and Co. at \$21, and Astor House Hotels at \$30. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf 6 per cent. Debentures were placed at Tls. 98½.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 8th March.—During the past fortnight a large business has been transacted. From Saigon to Hongkong, the demand continues, 19 cents being last rate paid; to Philippines, one small carrier has been closed at 29 cents; to Swatow, 22 cents last; to Shanghai, 28½ cents; to Tientsin, two boats fixed at 45 cents owners paying cost of lighterage at Taku Bar; to Japan, 27 cents. From North Coast Java to Hongkong, 30 cents per picul for wet and/or dry sugar; to Japan, 10/6 per ton. From Bangkok to this 24 cents and 31 cents per picul. Coal freights are firm. From South Japan Coal port to this, \$1.50 offering; to Singapore, \$1.60 per ton last. Time charters. The Dagny has been chartered for Newchwang/Canton trade, Nord, Clara Jebben and Sexta for Saigon, Hilary for Java and Quinta for Northern and Providence for Haiphong trade. The following are the settlements:—

Hinsang—British steamer, 1,536 tons, Moji to Hongkong, 1.50 per ton.

Quinta—German steamer, 957 tons, Hongkong to Pulo Brani, \$2.70 per ton.

Landrat Scheiff—German steamer, 1,000 tons, three ports North Coast Java to Hongkong, private terms.

Sullberg—German steamer, 782 tons, Saigon to Swatow, 22 cents per picul.

Signal—German steamer, 907 tons, Saigon to Swatow, 22 cents per picul.

Tinhov—British steamer, 902 tons, Saigon to Shanghai, 28 cents per picul.

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Saigon to Shanghai 28½ cents per picul.

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Saigon to Tientsin, 45 cents per picul.

Kniesberg—German steamer, 648 tons, Saigon to Tientsin, 45 cents per picul.

Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Saigon to Cebu, 29 cents per picul.

Omuro Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,779 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Signal—German steamer, 907 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Pheumpeh—British steamer, 1,065 tons, Saigon to Hongkong or Canton, 18 cents per picul.

Progress—German steamer, 799 tons, Saigon to Hongkong or Canton, 18½ cents per picul.

Taiwan—British steamer, 1,042 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19 cents per picul.

Taukan—British steamer, 1,123 tons, Saigon to Hongkong or Canton, 18/20 cents per picul.

Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, Saigon to Hongkong or Canton, 15½/17½ cents per picul.

Suma Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,351 tons, Saigon to Hongkong or Canton, 16½/18½ cents per picul.

An Indo China S. N. Co.'s steamer, Saigon to Hongkong or Canton, 18/20 cents per picul.

Eutin—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Hongkong or Canton, 18/20 cents per picul.

Tingsang—British steamer, 1,046 tons, Saigon to Hongkong or Canton, 18/20 cents per picul.

Skramolad—Norwegian steamer, 860 tons, Saigon to Hongkong or Canton, 18/21 cents per picul.

Fri—Norwegian steamer, 859 tons, Saigon to Hongkong or Canton, 18/21 cents per picul.

Waushing—British steamer, 1,170 tons, Saigon to Hongkong or Canton, 19/21 cents per picul.

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Saigon to Hongkong or Canton, 19/21 cents per picul.

Frithjof—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, Saigon to Hongkong or Canton, 19/22 cents per picul.

Providence—Norwegian steamer, 693 tons, monthly, 3/3 months, at \$4,600 per month.

Marie—German steamer, 1,160 tons, monthly, 3/3 months, at \$7,400 per month.

Clara Jebben—German steamer, 1,103 tons, monthly, 4 months, at \$5,400 per month.

Nord—Norwegian steamer, 730 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$4,350 per month.

Hilary—German steamer, 1,276 tons, monthly, 6 months, private terms.

Sexta—German steamer, 987 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$5,500 per month.

Dagny—Norwegian steamer, 862 tons, monthly, 8 months, at \$4,600 per month.

Quinta—German steamer, 987 tons, monthly, 12 months, at \$5,100 per month.

FREIGHTS.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Freight Market Report, dated Shanghai, 1st March, 1907, states. —Since writing last, the China New Year holidays have intervened and although there are signs of improvement there is very little cargo coming forward for export, the markets not having recovered yet from the holidays. Coastwise.—We are glad to be able to record a decided change for the better, this is owing partly to the resumption of business after the holidays, partly to the near opening of the Northern Ports, and partly to the reduction in the numbers of "outsiders" plying on the coast, so many of the Norwegian boats having been obliged to retire homewards during the last year so that now there are only about a third of the number remaining that were out here twelve months ago.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 47/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles, or Havre 47/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 37/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland):—Tea, G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai.—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 to \$1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

March—

ARRIVALS.

- 8, Benlawers, British str., from London.
- 8, Carl Diederichsen, Ger str., from Holbow.
- 8, Glenfarg, British str., from Chill.
- 8, Hoogmoed, British str., from Singapore.
- 8, Laisang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 8, Libria, German str., from Singapore.
- 8, Malta, British str., from Bombay.
- 8, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
- 8, Sanuki Maru, Jap. str., from London.
- 8, Shoshu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Standard, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
- 8, Taming, British str., from Manila.
- 8, Tjibodas, Dutch str., from Amoy.
- 8, Tjipanas, Dutch str., from Batavia.
- 8, Chowfa, German str., from Kokoichang.
- 8, Japara, Dutch str., from Hoa-Hay.
- 8, Raleigh, U.S. Cruiser, from Manila.
- 8, Tucksun, German str., from Bangkok.
- 8, Tungus, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
- 9, Hilary, German str., from Sourabaya.
- 9, Nishibu Maru, Japanese str., from Wakamatsu.

10, Antenor, British str., from Singapore.
 10, Camtan Maru, Jap. str., from Rangoon.
 10, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 10, Haliotes, Dutch str., from Singapore.
 10, Hunan, British str., from Saigon.
 10, Ischia, Italian str., from Bombay.
 10, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 10, Quarfa, German str., from Saigon.
 10, Sandakan, German str., from Sydney.
 10, Sibirjen, Dan. str., from Antwerp.
 10, Spartiate H.M.S. British Cruiser from Singapore.
 10, Stentor, British str., from Amoy.
 10, T'ango Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 10, Wuhu, British str., from Chinkiang.
 11, Amberton, British str., from Cardiff.
 11, Atholl, British str., from Singapore.
 11, Ceylon, British str., from London.
 11, Empress of China, British str., from Vancouver, B.C.
 11, Falk, Norwegian str., from Rajang.
 11, Nord, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 11, Prima, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 11, Suez, Russian str., from Saigon.
 11, Suma Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
 11, Tai Sang, British str., from Saigon.
 11, Varg, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 11, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 12, Aragonia, German str., from Portland.
 12, Blue Cross, British str., from Cardiff.
 12, Labois, Nor. str., from Natuna Island.
 12, Muncaster Castle, Br. str., from Foochow.
 12, Ulv, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 12, Victoria, Swedish str., from Saigon.
 12, Waishing, British str., from Saigon.
 12, Clam, British str., from Balik Pappan.
 12, Ceylon Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
 12, D'Entrecasteaux, Fr. cruiser, from Along Bay.
 12, Eutin, German str., from Saigon.
 12, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 12, Jacob Diederichsen, German str., from Ponape.
 12, Wakamatsu Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 13, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 13, Helene, German str., from Swatow.
 13, Japan, British str., from Calcutta.
 13, Princess Alice, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 13, Scandia, German str., from Yokohama.
 14, Derwent, British str., from Saigon.
 14, America Maru, Japanese str., from San Francisco.
 14, Haiching, British str., from Foochow.
 14, Merapi, Dutch str., from Singapore.
 14, Spir, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 15, Colombo Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.
 15, Daiya Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 15, Hellas, German str., from Kutchinotsu.
 15, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.
 15, Isobe, Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 15, Kaifong, British str., from Cebu.
 15, Kwangtab, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 15, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 15, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
 15, Masan Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 15, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
 15, Shaohsin, British str., from Shanghai.
 15, Tartar, British str., from Vancouver, B.C.
 15, Tean, British str., from Manila.
 15, Zieten, German str., from Hamburg.
 16, Changsha, British str., from Sydney.
 16, Clara Jeben, German str., from Saigon.
 16, Fukushu Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
 16, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
 16, Marie, German str., from Saigon.
 16, Pongtong, German str., from Bangkok.
 16, Proteus, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 16, Radnorshire, British str., from London.
 16, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Rangoon.
 16, Yiksang, British str., from Saigon.
 17, Alofda, steam yacht from Taal.
 17, Chow Tai, German str., from Bangkok.
 17, Kobsichang, German str., from Bangkok.
 17, Maria Rickmers, German str., from Kuchinotsu.
 17, Merkuri, Russian str., from Odessa.
 17, Persia, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 17, Tranquebar, Danish str., from Shanghai.
 17, Yang Moo, Korean str., from Moji.

March—
 DEPARTURES.
 8, Kamor, Nor. str., for Kobe.
 8, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
 8, Triumph, German str., for Pakhoi.
 8, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 8, Taian Maru, Japanese str., for Singapore.
 8, Taiwan, German str., for Saigon.
 8, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.

8, Yuen-sang, British str., for Manila.
 8, Tsinan, British str., for Australian Port.
 8, Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.
 9, Aeon, British str., for Newcastle, N.W.N.
 9, Benlawer, British str., for Nagasaki.
 9, Busbu Maru, Japanese str., for Rangoon.
 9, Telbi, British str., for Europe.
 9, Drumgeth, British str., for Vizagapatam.
 9, Ithaka, German str., for Shanghai.
 9, Knirsberg, German str., for Hoihow.
 9, Kweilin, British str., for Tsingtau.
 9, Lightwing, British str., for Singapore.
 9, Loosok, German str., for Hoihow.
 9, Malta, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, Nanchang, British str., for Canton.
 9, Ningpo, British str., for Swatow.
 9, Providence, Nor. str., for Haiphong.
 9, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 9, Sannki Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 9, Shansi, British str., for Saigon.
 9, Standard, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 9, Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Moji.
 11, Amoy, German str., for Saigon.
 11, Canton Maru, Jap. str., for Yokkuichi.
 11, Denin Maru, Jap. str., for Yokkuichi.
 11, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 11, Haliotes, Dutch str., for Canton.
 11, Hunan, British str., for Canton.
 11, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 11, Kanju Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 11, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
 11, Liberia, German str., for Shanghai.
 11, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 11, Nichiei Maru, Japanese str., for Canton.
 11, Phranang, German str., for Swatow.
 11, Pitsanulok, German str., for Swatow.
 11, Signal, German str., for Swatow.
 11, Tinho, British str., for Pakhoi.
 11, Tjibodas, Dutch str., for Batavia.
 11, Wuhu, British str., for Canton.
 12, Antenor, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Atholl, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 12, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 12, Hopson, British str., for Hongay.
 12, Huichow, British str., for Swatow.
 12, Kiukiang, British str., for Canton.
 12, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 12, Shoshu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 12, Singan, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Stentor, British str., for Singapore.
 12, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 13, Ceylon Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
 13, Macaw, German str., for Swatow.
 13, Muncaster Castle, Brit. str., for New York.
 13, Prima, Norwegian str., for Yokohama.
 13, Sandakan, German str., for Yokohama.
 13, Sibirien, Danish str., for Shanghai.
 14, Ceylon, British str., for Moji.
 14, Clam, British str., for Shanghai.
 14, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 14, Ischia, Ital. str., for Bombay.
 14, Johanne, German str., for Swatow.
 14, Nanchang, British str., for Chefoo.
 14, Princess Alice, German str., for Europe.
 14, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
 15, Haliotes, Dutch str., for Canton.
 15, Helene, German str., for Hoihow.
 15, Hue, French str., for Quang Chou Wan.
 15, Jacob Diederichsen, for Hoihow.
 15, Kwangtab, Chinese str., for Canton.
 15, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
 15, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 15, Lydia, German str., for Shanghai.
 15, Rajaburi, German str., for Hoihow.
 15, Spir, Norwegian str., for Tientsin.
 15, Standard, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 15, Sullberg, German str., for Saigon.
 17, Aragonia, German str., for Moji.
 17, Colombo Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 17, Furst Bismarck, German flag-ship, for Kiaochoo.
 17, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 17, Hellas, German str., for Hongay.
 17, Holstein, German str., for Swatow.
 17, Korea, American str., for Shanghai.
 17, Laisang, British str., for Singapore.
 17, Locksuo, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Masan Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 17, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 17, Nori, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 17, Scandia, German str., for Singapore.
 17, Shaohsin, British str., for Canton.
 17, Tungus, Norwegian str., for Tsingtau.
 17, Yamata Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
 17, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 17, Zieten, German str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Quarta*, from Saigon, Mr. R. Kuentner.
 Per *Pongtong*, from Bangkok, Mr. Downie.
 Per *Clara Jensen*, from Saigon, Mr. H. Meister.
 Per *Fukushu Maru*, from Anping, Mr. R. J. Hastings.
 Per *Laisang*, from Calcutta and Straits, Mr. Sutor, Mr. Brooke.
 Per *Kaifong* from Cebu, &c., Mrs. Dixon and two children, Miss Chamberlain.
 Per *Ceylon*, from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Bears, Miss Downes, Mr. F. Austen.
 Per *Haiching*, from Foochow, Messrs. A. L. Stein and Cooper, Master S. Whiffeld.
 Per *Haimun*, from Swatow, Sir Alex Simpson, Mr. Simpson, Miss Brockett, and two Masters Brockett.
 Per *Kuongsang*, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. White, Master Ivan White, Miss Chrissie White, Mrs. Hamilton.
 Per *Tartar* from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Swardon; from Shanghai, Mrs. Sherwood, Messrs. J. C. Christman and H. H. Buckner.
 Per *Kwangtab*, from Shanghai, Mrs. J. A. Duncan, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Miss Conly and Miss Pinch.
 Per *Lighting*, from Calcutta, &c., Miss Lewis, Miss Ward, Miss Babanhouse, Miss Rudick, Messrs. O'Colahan and J. W. Osborne.
 Per *Sandakan*, from Sydney, Mrs. Colmer, Mr. S. Gelsch, Mrs. S. Saris, Mrs. E. Dunning, Capt. Oliver, N. K. Nielsen, E. A. Wye and F. Rowe.
 Per *Taming*, from Manila, Mr. & Mrs. F. C. Arranca and baby, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Locule, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Dieck, Mrs. L. A. Clark and infant, Lt. H. F. Smith.
 Per *Japan*, from Calcutta, Major and Mrs. D. F. Stuart, Miss Fraser, Lieut. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Davies, Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Robinson and Misses Robinson, Miss Sullivan, Mrs. F. Chew, Mr. and Mrs. Shellim, Mr. C. F. Beadel, Capt. E. M. D. Hepenstal and Mr. A. J. Coudrey.
 Per *Empress of China*, for Hongkong from Vancouver, Capt. P. J. Hankin, &c., Messrs. W. F. F. Swan, J. Kewley and T. Christiani, Mr. and Mrs. B. Cogan and two children, Messrs. E. D. C. Wolfe, J. J. Byrnes, L. D. Cooke and H. Droege; from Shanghai, Mr. B. Eickelman and C. W. F. Elsworth.
 Per *Tean*, from Manila, Mrs. Mallory, Colonel Taylor, Messrs. Boyce and Liebbig, Mr. and Mrs. Pastashe, Miss Curtis, Mrs. Montaron, Messrs. Browne, Adams, Nicklin and Lieut. Smith, Miss Moore, Miss Edwards Mrs. Sebree, Mr. and Mrs. Kepne, Messrs. Beeman, Wade, Romer and child, Beard and Murray, Major and Mrs. Rowan.
 Per *Princess Alice*, from Kobe, for Hongkong, Messrs. N. Kayano and H. Dobashi; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Becker, Messrs. Zung and M. Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. Hueber Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Roberts, Messrs. Ross and servant, King, Arnold, Ribou, Hudson and Katz, Miss Flora White, Mrs. T. D. de Lus, and Mr. N. Giardano; from Nagasaki, Capt. A. Anderson, Messrs. G. Gunderson and E. Erikson.
 Per *America Maru*, from San Francisco, Messrs. F. S. Douglas, Fred M. Johnson, Ramon Mariano, B. C. Allin and C. A. Vail, Miss G. Small, Miss Blanche C. Hamilton, Miss Eva Thelin, Miss Pearl White, Mr. R. N. Paton, Mrs. Paton and maid, Mrs. G. Peterson, Mr. R. H. S. Creswell and wife, Messrs. A. E. Dowler, J. Decauville and J. Marchand, Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Soule, Capt. J. Barneson, Mrs. Barneson, Mrs. C. M. Somers and daughter.
 Per *Sannki Maru*, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hollings and child, Mr. B. B. Van Leer, Miss A. Harris, Miss Danford, Mr. E. H. Robinson, Miss M. Am. Thurn, Mr. & Mrs. R. H. T. Craig, Mr. J. E. Beach, Mr. C. Ried, Mr. W. Woolley, Misses T. M. and M. Taylor; from Kobe, Capt. T. Hallstrom, Miss T. Matsushima, Mr. F. Adia, Mr. T. Watanabe, Mrs. C. Watanabe, Dr. Migaki, Misses Makumiso, Mr. R. Matsunaga; Yokohama Prof. H. Begawa, Mr. A. Nishimura, Mr. H. Baist, Mr. B. Stamm, Mr. T. Vadjloka, Prof. T. Hirota, Mr. Werckmeister, Miss B. G. Hopkins, Miss G. B. Hopkins, Mr. P. P. Pyson, Mr. I. Sudzuki, Mr. Sasaki, Mr. T. Ashizawa, Mr. Chedin.

Per *Tango Maru*, from Shanghai, Mrs. K. Kobayashi and child, Messrs. N. Muzata, W. J. Ohle, N. D. B. Dodson, Lin. Wong, T. Tonohara, Ang, K. Nishiyama, L. Rozario, S. Akiyoshi.

Per *Zieten*, from Southampton, for Hongkong Messrs. G. Andrew, H. Woolley and family (5) and W. F. Eldridge, Capt. and Mrs. Wetherell, Mr. Geo. Tudhope; from Genoa, Messrs. E. Arndt, Oskar Schutze, de Sherven, Heinrich Gasser, F. Baur & Faini Ettore; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Payne, Mr. and Mrs. Champlin, Mr. Callum and family (4), Mr. Formby-Buck and family (3), Camilla Weckerman, A. U. Hitchcock, C. Creegan and Col. Hancock, Mr. and Mrs. Scudder, Mr. and Mrs. Walsh; from Penang, Mr. Hillburgh, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Focke and Mr. Thompson and family (6); from Singapore, Mr. T. Ford and family, Mr. T. Wood, Mrs. and Miss Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Reilly jr., Mr. and Mrs. Talbot, Mr. H. Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Black, Mr. Schneile and family (4) Mr. and Mrs. Cowen, Messrs. Tranggott Hohener, Hamon, Ross Pipe, Mr. Slan and family.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Snook, Mrs. W. R. Rush, Mrs. A. H. Enocks, Messrs. C. H. McClure, B. M. Aikins, Paul Hube and W. Sigel, Mrs. A. F. D. Redford, Mrs. G. Dunster, Messrs. F. del Sar Orozco and W. J. King, Dr. Sis, Mr. and Mrs. T. Elizalde and child, Mrs. T. Mendez, Mrs. J. Argonillo, Messrs. C. G. Mathew, S. W. Ford and F. Pages, Mrs. M. Ossorio and child, Messrs. M. Ossorio and H. Anerbach, Capt. B. Enochs, Messrs. T. Bremer, J. W. Utz, R. Thompson, and Chas M. Swift, Mrs. Chas M. Swift, Miss I. Swift, Mrs. Bulton and two children, Mrs. C. Hayden and two children, Mrs. T. J. Arms, Miss Lucy Arms, Master F. Arms, Miss S. P. Moore, Mrs. F. G. Colby and child, Mr. F. G. Colby and child, Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Aitken, Mr. T. D. Aitken and children, Miss F. L. Perry, Mrs. Aikins, Mrs. J. S. Kulp, Messrs. J. N. Wolfson and G. N. Wolf, Lt. Talbot Smith, Messrs. W. Benson, C. W. Wilson, L. Szily, A. Ritchie, P. A. Stovold and Farrell.

Per *Maltu*, from London, for Hongkong, Mrs. M. Stoker, Mrs. A. Hoffman, Miss E. N. Brooks, Miss A. M. Pitts, Miss A. M. McClelland, Miss Church, Miss M. M. Keith, Miss A. H. Flood, Miss F. M. T. Holberton, Messrs. G. Leight and Valet, H. Gegg, E. E. Gerrard, C. J. Cooke, A. W. Sangster, R. Hoffman, H. R. Withers, E. A. Cookson, F. Godman, T. Godman; from Marseilles, Col. and Mrs. L. S. Drummond, Mrs. Gibbons, Mrs. F. M. West, Miss K. Hickey, Messrs. L. Marston, J. Wheelley; from Brindisi, Mrs. Fiske, Mrs. Sherrick, Miss G. M. Almy, Miss C. A. Lenker, Messrs. B. M. Fiske, J. Sherrick, C. F. Lang, F. Miller, J. Davenport; from Port Said Miss E. V. Moore; from Penang, Mr. K. J. Tok and Servant; Mrs. Tuck and Madame Nesing, Rev. A. A. Cordova, Messrs. A. Moore, Sir L. McMahon, Lady McMahon, R. W. Nikkels, A. McLennan, Willet, H. M. Gallagher, J. A. Hak, A. P. Choe, S. S. Tog, A. F. Castilho, H. Khan; from London for Shanghai, Mrs. Harley and infant, Mrs. Harley's nurse, Miss I. Hide, Mr. W. F. Harley; from Marseilles, for Shanghai, Rev. B. Mather, Messrs. A. P. Vandawan, A. Wright, F. F. Dodman; from Penang for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. I. Cooks; from Bombay, for Shanghai, Mr. R. S. Lewis's servant; from Bombay, for Yokohama, Mr. F. H. James; from London, for Yokohama, Rev. J. Carter, Miss F. E. Brighton, Miss D. Beete, Messrs. F. E. Colchester, A. L. Kennedy, C. E. Beete; from Marseilles, for Yokohama, Mr. and Miss L. A. Cullis, Mrs. A. G. Angier, Messrs. A. A. Collart, R. S. Lewis, C. C. Shelton, A. G. Angier; from Singapore for Shanghai, Messrs. H. F. Seymour, McBougan; from Port Said, for Yokohama, Messrs. G. H. Snowden, R. D. Klsop.

DEPARTED.

Per *Delhi*, From Hongkong for London, Inspector W. Robertson, Mrs. & Miss Robertson, Masters A. Robertson, J. Robertson, N. Robertson, C. Robertson and W. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Pirth, Mrs. Firth's maid, Mr. G. A. Maclean, Mr. & Mrs. W. T. Ellis, Mr. J. B. Picton, Mrs. E. Jones Hughes 2 sons, infant and amah, Mr. G. Keeble; to Gibraltar Mr. & Mrs. H. Hogan, Miss Hogan; to Brindisi Mr. H. F. Smith; to Colombo Dr. G. A. Cox,

to Penang Rev and Mrs. B. F. Van Dyke; to Singapore, Messrs C. E. Hodges, P. K. Knyvett, Edwin Phillips, W. R. Young, G. W. Ibrahim.

Per *Sanuki Maru*, from Hongkong, for Kobe and Yokohama, Miss Matsushima, Mr. Hirota, Mr. Fujioka, Misses Hopkins, (2), Mrs. F. Adams, Mr. Segawa, Mr. Nishura, Mr. Fyson, Mrs. Stamm, Mrs. Buist, Mr. S. C. Newall, Mr. and Mrs. John Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. Watanabe, Miss Nakamura, Mr. Inagaki, Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Souza and two children, Mr. Sudzuki, Mr. Sasaki, Mr. Chidin, Mr. Matsuo, Mr. and Mrs. Suguira and one infant, Mr. U. Yoshida, Mr. Y. Fujiwara.

Per *Zieten*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Messrs. John R. Hykes, A. Mohr, H. T. Butterworth, Kruse, F. Nicolai, Alex. Comar, Busch, D. H. Benjamin and R. Romero, Sir H. de Saumarez, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Jameson, Mrs. Vaughan Lee; for Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Lyon, Mr. Y. Kanus, Mrs. Nagamutsu; for Higo, Messrs. Tetsch and Mazumoto, Mrs. Neresheimer; for Yokohama, Messrs. Pope, O. Neuburg, F. Goring, P. de Peuvit Lou Mar, Matzuoka and F. Rowe, Sir N. Nathan, Rev. G. Kenhead, Dr. Fox and L. Adair, Messrs. Brown and Robinson, Dr. H. v. der Saude Backlington, Mr. and Mrs. M. Gross, Dr. L. Yarmay, Miss C. Kinhead, Mrs. Rush, Miss O. Williams, Miss L. Guitner, Mr. and Mrs. Claudoir.

Per *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, The Duke and Duchess of Manchester, Messrs. Maik, T. Steinberg and J. N. Wilson, Sir Lionel and Lady McMahon, Mr. C. W. Roberts, Miss Baker, Miss Thurn, Mr. A. J. Cowdry, Mr. and Mrs. Leiser, Col. Scott, Mrs. E. D. Darell and maid, Miss Maxwell, Mr. F. J. Mayers, Mrs. T. E. Griffiths, Mr. W. Imboof, Mr. and Mrs. E. Davies, Major and Mrs. Stuart, Lieut. Rodgers, Miss Fraser, Mr. Frank Adam, Mr. and Mrs. Talbot, Mr. A. W. Zangster, Dr. and Mrs. Snook, Miss H. Flood, Miss Holberton, Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins, Messrs. Henry Crawford, Alex. Brebner, H. D. Fitzgerald, J. B. Sutor, A. A. Collart, D. E. Colchester, L. D. Cooke, J. J. Bymes, A. Moore, Count de Prasset, Col. and Mrs. Drummond, maid and servant, Messrs. Gerard Leigh and Edney Page, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Lok, Messrs. Paul Lultrighans, E. A. Cookson & H. R. Withers, Mrs. Hoffman, Messrs. Rupert Hoffman, W. Benson and Cochran, Miss Dingwall, Dr. Macaulay, Messrs. Tompson, McClure, Ohtani, Tano and King, Miss Hamilton.

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